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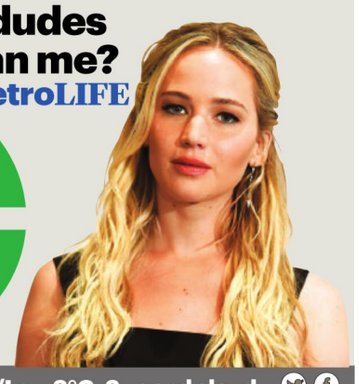
Why do these dudes make more than me?
metroLIFE



Crisis hits T.O. homes

HOUSING

Federal money could be key election issue

Greg Spearn stands where the ceiling is bulging down toward him, the result of water seeping in from the roof over the top-floor apartment.

Now the units below are also at risk in this Toronto Community Housing highrise near Jane Street and Wilson Avenue. The top-floor unit is just one of hundreds TCHC has been forced to close in the past five years. The lack of repairs due to funding gaps has gotten so bad in buildings like this that they've been deemed unfit for human habitation.

The city insists the federal government has to maintain the 2015 level of investment — $140 million annually — to keep up with housing needs, which has become a key election issue for Toronto officials.

There are now 4,000 units at risk of being boarded up in the next three years. And with few other options for rehousing families, officials estimate that could have a devastating impact on some 16,000 people.

City officials, local politicians and housing experts have all deemed it a crisis. "If we don't fix these homes, there's a huge spike in health-care costs coming that are going to far exceed the investment we're asking the levels of governments for to fix the units in the first place," said Spearn, Toronto Community Housing's interim CEO.

In Toronto, 265,000 people live in social housing. The city, through TCHC, governs 58,800 housing units spread across more than 2,200 buildings worth more than $9 billion. Meanwhile, there are almost 94,000 applications on the public housing waiting list as of July, representing 172,087 people. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

metro PLUS
Find out where the parties stand on page 6

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Events that shaped Playboy's history. Life

Blue Jays SUPERFANS

Ali Haberstroh, left, and friend Emma Boynton.

Ali Haberstroh

FAVOURITE PLAYER: Josh Donaldson.
FIRST BECAME A FAN: When she was six.
BORN: In the year of Jays eternal victory, 1993.

Ali's dad taught her about baseball when she was a kid, and they continue to bond over their love for the Blue Jays.

"He lives in Vancouver now but we text through every game," Haberstroh said. "It's been a really magical experience to have with him, especially with the team making the playoffs."

She spent most of the summer listening to games outside a small radio she bought for just that. Now that it's cooing down, she's moved inside to Ronnie's Local in Kensington Market."

"Bruce Springsteen blasts during the ads and the boys wail on a cowbell for every good play so it feels like you're a part of a little tradition," Ali said.

5 LESSONS FOR THE BLUE JAYS FROM ACTUAL BLUE JAYS

JAYS 2015

Luke Simcoe
Metro | Toronto

As they head into today's must-win game against the Texas Rangers, the Blue Jays should take some lessons from their moniker, says University of Toronto zoologist Kenneth Welch.

1 They have a wide range

Blue jays can be found in every province in Canada, much like Blue Jays fans. So, when the team takes to the field today, they can rest assured that people across the country will be cheering for their success. Carrying the hopes of a whole country can't be easy, but it should also serve as motivation.

2 They're adaptable

A cousin of the crow, blue jays are versatile and can adapt to different situations, Welch said.

"They're very, very intelligent, even among birds," he said. "That's why they've been able to adapt to different climates and in places where humans live."

The Jays proved their adaptability this season, when they found a way to win despite injuries to stars like Marcus Stroman and Troy Tulowitzki.

They did it again this week, coming back from two games down to tie the series with the Rangers. With top reliever Brett Cecil out for the remainder of the season, the Jays will once again have to prove they've got what it takes to excel in less-than-ideal circumstances.

3 They're feared predators

Despite their friendly appearance, Welch said blue jays are actually fearsome predators. They've even been known to raid the nests of other birds and eat their young.

"I imagine they do that with orioles," Welch said, joking.

While that's not a pretty picture, the Jays' potent offense has put fear in the hearts of other teams — and pitchers — throughout the season. They'll need to live up to that reputation if they want to keep the postseason alive.

4 They work as a team

Welch said blue jays will "come together" to fend off larger birds of prey who encroach on their territory.

"Whenever they see a hunter like a hawk or a falcon around, they'll gang up and pester it to drive it away," he said.

The Jays' camaraderie as a team has been much noted this season. Hopefully it will be enough to make on last push past the Rangers.

5 They're Territorial

Once blue jays have claimed a feeder, Welch says others keep their distance.

"Their calls are discouraging to other birds," he said.

That's good news for the Jays, as Game 5 of the American League East series is happening here in Toronto, where the crowd — and their calls — will be nice and loud.

"I'll be cheering them on, too," Welch said.

ISTOCK

If you're going to pick a bird to name a team after, you can do a lot worse than the blue jay. They're a pretty fearsome bird.
Kenneth Welch

Fahmy's story evokes student compassion

MEDIA RIGHTS

Inspires future journalists to fight and hope for reforms

Gilbert Ngabo
Metro | Toronto

Toronto students have high hopes that Mohamed Fahmy's case can serve as a lesson for whichever party forms the next Canadian government.

"Hopefully, they'll handle the situation better," said Ilina Ghosh, a second-year journalism student at Ryerson. "Hopefully, no other journalist has to go through what he went through."

Ghosh, who wants to become an international correspondent with her sights set on the Middle East, followed Fahmy's battle in the Egyptian court system closely. She's also been watching since Fahmy — now back in Canada and at Ryerson on Tuesday — was pardoned.

"I like how he's been so outspoken about how he felt betrayed by the Canadian government," she said after hearing him speak.

Fahmy's ordeal gained a lot of political attention and is a vital reminder for students that journalists still face many challenges.

"You have to care when you hear that there are governments out there who think a person who's trying to communicate information to the public is a criminal and a terrorist," said Badri Murali, a fourth-year journalism student.

It can be scary to hear about hundreds of journalists locked up around the world or others who've lost their lives on the job.

But Fahmy's determination to soldier on is a big inspiration, said third-year student Jennifer Ferreira.

"I hope his case leads to more dialogue, more openness and transparency about free speech," she said.

"Freedom of expression really shouldn't put people in trouble."

Canadian journalist Mohamed Fahmy criticized Stephen Harper's government for its "very mild" intervention in his case during a Tuesday appearance at Ryerson University.
LIZ BEDDALL/METRO

> **Freedom of expression really shouldn't put people in trouble.**
> Jennifer Ferreira

PRISON TRANSFER

Makhtal inching closer to return

Bashir Makhtal, a Toronto man who has spent almost nine years languishing in detention in Ethiopia, is one step closer to coming home.

Government officials have alerted his cousin Said Maktal that the paperwork is being drawn up to send to Ethiopia after the Minister of Foreign Affairs Rob Nicholson and Public Safety Canada Minister Steven Blaney finally signed off on a prison transfer.

Maktal is relieved that his cousin's transfer papers have been signed by Ottawa and is anxious to see him back on Canadian soil, but he has reservations and he wonders why it took them so long to sign the documents.

Earlier this summer Maktal accused the government of purposely delaying his cousin's prison transfer.

"The only person who was interested in the case left the office — which was John Baird — and after that nothing has happened with the case," said Maktal in July, referring to the former cabinet minister who has left politics.

Bashir Makhtal CONTRIBUTED

"So you can understand after so many years of hoping and no results, you ask yourself is this ever going to happen?"

Makhtal's lawyer Lorne Waldman says he could be home as early as the end of the year. Once home, he will have to serve the remainder of his sentence in a Canadian prison.

"It is consistent with my view that the government doesn't have a strong commitment to protecting Canadians who are detained abroad," said Waldman

Makhtal was convicted of terrorism in 2009. He has always denied the charges.
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Toronto's public housing trouble

This year alone, Toronto Community Housing boarded up 350 units because they had fallen into unlivable disrepair. Another 4,000 homes are at imminent risk. Housing officials say the current stock of buildings is headed for disaster. Ahead of the federal election, here's a look at the growing public housing crisis in this city and what the parties propose to do about it.

CONSERVATIVES

Under Stephen Harper's government, federal funding continued to decrease. At the current rates, there will be no federal investment for capital repairs by 2032. Harper's Conservatives have not promised any new money to fund capital repairs in this campaign. The 2015 budget committed $150 million over four years starting in 2016 for housing providers like TCHC to prepay their mortgages without penalty.

LIBERALS

Justin Trudeau's Liberals have promised a "new, dedicated funding envelope for social infrastructure" which will "prioritize" investment in affordable housing, among other areas. The commitment, which has yet to be broken down to show how much would flow to Toronto, would be $6 billion over the first four years of an almost $20-billion commitment over 10 years. Liberal candidate for Spadina-Fort York Adam Vaughan said Toronto would still be recognized as having a significant need for some of those housing dollars under existing agreements. Trudeau also promised Mayor John Tory that infrastructure funding can be used toward housing repairs.

GREENS

Of the four parties, the Green Party has the most detailed plan on housing, including a promise to create a National Affordable Housing Program to build upwards of 20,000 units while repairing 8,000 each year. Elizabeth May's Greens promise $400 million in the first year, increasing each year to $1.4 billion in 2019-20. That funding would also be used to provide rent supplements or shelter assistance for another 40,000 households every year for 10 years. It's not clear how much money might be available for Toronto residents. The Greens would also look to make sure any new housing would include a percentage of affordable units.

NDP

Thomas Mulcair's NDP has promised it will "sustain investment in Canada's affordable housing agreements." They have promised to invest $440 million in the first year, increasing to $650 million by 2019-20. They also said they will provide "incentives" for 10,000 new affordable and market-rent units with a one-time investment of $500 million in 2016.

THE EXPERTS: CANADIANS ARE PREPARED TO VOTE FOR A POLITICAL PARTY THAT HAS A SERIOUS SET OF PROPOSALS

Greg Suttor

"Federal actions in affordable housing should focus on people with low incomes — people using food banks and paying a lot for poor-quality housing. Improving this situation is good for people's health."

GREG SUTTOR, HOUSING RESEARCHER AT THE WELLESLEY INSTITUTE

Dennis Timbrell

"It's important now to say, look, if you're willing to pay money to maintain a bridge you built 20 years ago ... why aren't you paying money to maintain 60,000 publicly paid-for homes?"

DENNIS TIMBRELL, EX-MINISTER OF MUNICIPAL AFFAIRS AND HOUSING/SPOKESMAN FOR STAND UP FOR PUBLIC HOUSING

Alvin Curling

"Yes, some parties have come out and said, 'We'll do this and we'll do that' in helping some of the decayed buildings, but we want them to think beyond all that."

ALVIN CURLING, FORMER MINISTER OF HOUSING AND SPOKESMAN FOR STAND UP FOR PUBLIC HOUSING

Michael Shapcott

"The absolutely incontrovertible reality of housing is that when it gets older, when it ages, you either have to keep up making investments in it or it falls apart."

MICHAEL SHAPCOTT, DIRECTOR OF CANADIAN ALLIANCE TO END HOMELESSNESS

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Selfies make voting social: Youth

ELECTION 2015

Posing with a marked ballot could land you in jail

Luke Simcoe
Metro | Toronto

Those who dismiss Canada's youth as apathetic or uninterested in politics might want to take a look at Instagram.

The popular photo-sharing site, along with platforms like Facebook and Twitter, was flooded with shots of young voters posing in front of — or occasionally inside — advance polling stations over the long weekend.

"We're social creatures and we like to talk about and share the things that we care about. The election is important to me," said Elamin Abdelmahmoud, a 27-year-old writer in Toronto, who posted an election selfie Monday.

"There's something human about taking a selfie and saying people who vote on election day aren't an unidentified mass. It's people like me and people like you," he said.

Abdelmahmoud said election selfies put a fun spin on an otherwise serious process, and may even encourage youth to vote.

"If you're a young person and you're on Facebook or Twitter or Instagram, even if you didn't vote in the advance polls, you probably saw some of your friends voting. That's important," he said.

The popular practice has been a problem for Elections Canada officials, some of whom had to shoo would-be selfie takers outside.

In fact posting a duck-face selfie with a marked ballot could land you in jail. According to the criminal code, the pictures could serve as a summary offence punishable by a maximum fine of $1,000 or a three-month prison term.

While it's not technically against the rules to take a picture while waiting to vote at the polls, it's a big-time offence to openly state who you are voting for while inside the polling station — which, of course would happen if you snap a selfie with a filled-in ballot or post a photo of your marked ballot.

"We're encouraging people to take selfies, just do it outside the polling place," said Elections Canada spokesman Dugald Maudsley. "The polling station is a place where voters can come and not be disrupted or feel like someone is looking over their shoulder."

Abdelmahmoud, meanwhile, thinks Elections Canada should get in on the selfie movement.

"If Elections Canada was smart, they'd capitalize on the popularity of it," he said. "It would be amazing if for the next election, they set up a selfie station outside the polls."

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This is the selfie election.
Elamin Abdelmahmoud

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Election staff needed in Toronto

With less than a week to go until Canadians head to the polls, Elections Canada still needs more staff in Toronto.

The organization is seeking staff to man the polls in three ridings: Spadina-Fort York, Scarborough Southwest and Scarborough-Agincourt.

Pay ranges from $15 to $21 an hour, depending on the position. Anyone interested in applying can find more information at elections.ca.

Instagram users Elamin Abdelmahmoud, Alissa Reid and Samantha Smitiuch were among the many Torontonians who posted election selfies after voting at advance polls over the weekend. INSTAGRAM

SAMMY YATIM

Judge delays Const. James Forcillo's trial

Jessica Smith Cross
Metro | Toronto

The judge in the trial of Toronto police Const. James Forcillo sent the jury away Tuesday and pushed the trial's start date back a week.

Opening statements in the trial concerning the death of 18-year-old Sammy Yatim were scheduled to begin Tuesday morning, but were delayed as the lawyers argued several issues before Justice Edward Then.

Then ordered the jury to stay away until Tuesday, Oct. 20, when the trial will likely get under way.

The legal issues at stake were outlined in court, but the jury was not present in the courtroom, so the legal arguments cannot be reported in the media.

Many key facts in the trial are not in dispute: Forcillo shot Yatim on a streetcar on Dundas West shortly after midnight on July 27, 2013.

Bystander videos of the shooting uploaded to YouTube shortly after it occurred, show Yatim alone on a Dundas West streetcar surrounded by police officers shouting at him to drop his knife. Forcillo fired multiple shots at Yatim, and Yatim fell to the ground. The videos have been viewed hundreds of thousands of times.

In the weeks following the teenager's death, protesters marched to protest police violence.

Ontario's Special Investigations Unit investigated the shooting and charged Forcillo with second-degree murder.

Later, Crown lawyers added the charge of attempted murder — an unusual decision that has yet to be explained in court. Defence lawyer Peter Brauti has repeatedly told the pubic through the media that another side of the story will come out in the course of the trial.

Const. James Forcillo, right, arrives at court in Toronto. Forcillo is charged with second-degree murder and attempted murder in the death of 18-year-old Sammy Yatim.
THE CANADIAN PRESS

PEEL DISTRICT

School board halts United Way campaign

Peel District School Board has put its United Way campaign on hold as work-to-rule action by the elementary teacher and support staff unions continues.

The board made the last-minute decision in consultation with the United Way, according to an internally distributed message from director of education Tony Pontes on Thursday.

"We agreed to postpone our campaign given the current labour situation and because we understand the importance of ensuring our campaigns are successful. We need everyone on board to help support students, families and staff in need in our communities," the message states.

This means employees will not be able to make payroll deductions and that major fundraising events like the board's United Way Giving Day, planned for Oct. 15, will be rescheduled.

In a press release Friday, the local union heads for CUPE slammed Pontes for blaming the suspension on labour action, saying their members had worked out a plan to continue supporting the campaign.

Brian Woodland, the Peel board's director of communications, said United Way campaigns run during previous labour actions have been less successful. Without flyers and school newsletters — which are not currently being sent out — it would be difficult to solicit donations, he said.

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READY TO ENGAGE

Metro's daily primer on what the parties are saying about the issues that matter to urban Canadians

BITUMEN: IT ISN'T OIL, IT'S
ASPHALT
When all the trees are cut down
When all the animals are dead
When all the waters are poisoned
When all the air is unsafe to breathe
Only then will you discover....
YOU CANNOT EAT MONEY.

Protesters march during a rally held in Vancouver in June last year to show opposition to the Enbridge Northern Gateway pipeline. Use of social media, the spread of "citizen journalism," and the involvement of young people are among the key trends highlighted by a federal analysis of protest activity in Canada over the last half-decade. THE CANADIAN PRESS FILE

Talking 'climate change lite'

ROSEMARY WESTWOOD
Metro

So much for climate change in this election.

No, no. I get it. We've got a lot going on. There's the stumbling economy, a global refugee crisis, child-care worries, housing problems, growing income inequality and, of course, the niqab.

So what, I guess, that Canadians still rank climate change high on their list of voting priorities?

This could have been the big one. The election where fear over climate change and federal policy finally got into bed together. The election where leaders offered bold visions of the future. A pivot from the oilsands, towards something new.

It's only partly our fault. Our elected leaders are also to blame.

But let's start with you, earnest voter who is worried about the health of our environment.

You are all but certainly not voting Conservative.

If you were to vote based on purely environmental policies, you would vote Green, the party that remains the most comprehensive on climate change and the environment.

Perhaps you're one of the 3.9 per cent of Canadians who did vote Green in 2011. More likely, your vote is destined for the NDP or the Liberals. Of the two, the NDP has the more aggressive emissions-reduction target (actually, the Liberals have no target whatsoever), but really, let's be honest: Whether you vote NDP or Liberal, you'll assume it's a vote for the environment because both are so dramatically better than the Conservatives on this. It's the equivalent of asking someone out to a fancy dinner, ending up at a burrito joint, and saying at least it's not McDonald's.

But like I said. It's only partly your fault. How can you take someone out for a $50 steak when no one (viable) is selling it?

"It's not like they're making it central to their campaigns," says Matthew Paterson, a politics professor at the University of Ottawa and a fellow at the Broadbent Institute.

A supreme understatement.

"I've been completely appalled by the level of discourse in this campaign," says David Boyd, an environmental lawyer, professor and author of the new book The Optimistic Environmentalist.

"The world is changing. The dramatic upsurge in renewable energy generation, the huge economic potential of clean tech, these are revolutionary economic shifts that are underway." Our "myopic focus" on fossil fuels, pipelines and coal, is bad economic policy, too, he says.

Louise Comeau, executive director of Climate Action Network Canada, the coalition of Canada's leading environmental groups, calls the election "worse than a missed opportunity — almost irresponsible." Continuing to present the economy and environmental protection as at odds is "putting the country at risk of really damaging our economy," she says.

The UN would agree. It backed a report released last month that warned our resource-based economy is in danger as the other nations strive to reduce their energy consumption.

To absorb the media in the last few years, in particular last year's UN's Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change report, is to assume climate-change Armageddon is one domino away.

And yet, in the midst of this global frenzy over the fate of the earth, the Canadian federal election campaign comes along, and the main message is about the little picture. Income splitting, taxes on the rich, balanced or unbalanced budgets, niqab, niqab, niqab. Only the Greens are explicitly against pipelines. All other parties are talking climate change lite.

And perhaps we're only one round of electoral reform away from a campaign where you wouldn't have to be so afraid to vote Green, for fear you'd let the very opposite hold on to power.

But the Greens have been offering heavy environmentalism for years now, and only a fraction of us have been biting. Any politico will tell you, it's the economy, stupid.

So, dear voter, it's us — and it's them. And I'm fairly sick, by now, of hearing that Canadians care about climate change. I'd rather see this country vote like it.

Maybe next time?

"It's not like they're making it central to their campaigns."
Matthew Paterson

2015 ELECTION COUNTDOWN

Rosie Westwood reflects on the key issues.

- TUES. Women
- **WED. Environment**
- THURS. Canadian values
- FRI. Youth engagement

QUICK GUIDE
ENVIRONMENT

Here's a breakdown of climate-related promises and legislative measures from the **NDP**, **Liberals**, **Conservatives** and **Greens**.

ON CARBON EMISSIONS	ON PROPOSED PIPELINES
NDP: • Pledged to reduce emission by 34% below 1990 levels by 2025, and 80% by 2050. • Would create cap-and-trade to set carbon market price. • Would redirect fossil-fuel subsidies to clean-energy.	**NDP:** • Opposes Enbridge Northern Gateway pipeline. • Calls for more rigorous reviews of TransCanada Energy East pipeline. • Opposes TransCanada Keystone XL pipeline.
Liberals: • Would allow provinces to set prices on carbon. • Would consult with provinces to set-reduction targets. • Would phase out fossil-fuel-industry subsidies.	**Liberals:** • Oppose Northern Gateway • Support Energy East. • Support Keystone XL.
Conservatives: • Promised to reduce emissions by 30% below 2005 levels by 2030 • Pledged to move to a low-carbon economy by 2050 and eliminate fossil fuels by century's end.	**Conservatives:** • Approved Northern Gateway. • Support TransCanada Energy East. • Support TransCanada Keystone XL.
Greens: • Would tax carbon emissions, with proceeds going to individual citizens via a "carbon dividend."	**Greens:** • Oppose all pipeline projects but support refining bitumen in Alberta, provided oilsands development is limited to current levels.

LATEST POLL **LIB 37%** **CON 31%** **NDP 24%** Source: Ipsos Reid/Global

Tories aim for Grits' tax plans

ELECTION 2015

Harper's 'cash on the table' stunt may be for attack ads

All three major party leaders were in the greater Toronto area on Tuesday, as polls suggest swathes of Ontario are up for grabs. JONATHAN HAYWARD/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Conservative Leader Stephen Harper is literally putting cash on the table in an effort to halt the momentum of Justin Trudeau's Liberals in the closing days of the federal election campaign.

With just five days of campaigning left before Canadians go to the polls next Monday, the Conservatives have twice staged low-tech stunts designed to illustrate how much they say Liberal tax changes will cost voters as Harper attempts to pick apart the Liberal platform.

The prime minister played the role of game show host again Tuesday at a partisan rally in west-end Toronto, calling out Liberal tax increases as a pizza store owner counted bills onto a table to the backdrop of a loudly ringing cash register.

"The tax hikes the Liberals talk about, they are not just numbers in a pamphlet," said Harper, without jacket or tie and with his blue shirt sleeves rolled up.

"They are real dollars and I want to show you again today what the payroll tax hikes look like."

Conservative party videographers took tight shots as pizza store owner Dino Ari laid bills on a table to repeated "ka-chings" from a cash register.

"Hand it over, Dino," Harper coached. "I hope you counted that carefully."

The Conservatives staged a similar display on the Thanksgiving weekend and the stunt appears destined for party advertising in the final moments of this extraordinary 78-day campaign, the longest in modern Canadian history.

All three major party leaders were in the Greater Toronto Area on Tuesday morning as polls continue to suggest an electorate in flux and swathes of seat-rich Ontario up for grabs.

There's also compelling evidence of a motivated electorate.

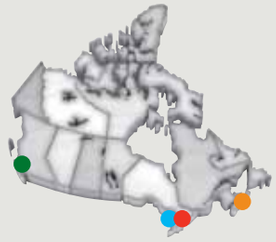
An estimated 1.2 million voters cast ballots in advance polls Monday, according to Elections Canada, bringing the four-day holiday weekend total to more than 3.6 million ballots cast. That's an increase of 71 per cent over advance ballots in the 2011 election, when only three days of advance polls were held.

Antipathy to Harper's Conservatives appears to be the only unifying element among the various challengers to the throne.

"I got into politics because I disagreed deeply with the vision that Stephen Harper has for this country and there is no circumstances in which I could either support him or even stand back and allow him to be prime minister," Trudeau said when asked about a potential minority Conservative government.

The Liberal leader, who ventured into an NDP-held riding in Toronto, appears to be trying to peel off voters from both the NDP and Tories, while hoping to win over strategic voters who might see an incumbent NDP MP as the best vehicle for removing Harper from office. THE CANADIAN PRESS

WHERE THE LEADERS ARE WEDNESDAY



- **Stephen Harper** will be in Brantford.
- **Justin Trudeau** will be in Ontario in Hamilton, Welland, St. Catharines and Ajax.
- **Tom Mulcair** will be in Dartmouth, N.S., and L'Assomption.
- **Elizabeth May** will be in Vancouver

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New York
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Orlando Travel Jan 12 – Jan 19	$319
Miami Travel Jan 20 – Jan 27	$335
Vancouver Travel Dec 8 – Dec 15	$579
Honolulu Travel Feb 2 – Feb 10	$589
Sao Paulo Travel Dec 8 – Dec 16	$665
London Travel Feb 8 – Feb 22	$769

AIR CANADA

Europe City Breaks

Paris Flights + 7 Nights
$1239
Citadines Bastille Gare De Lyon
INCLUDES apartment-style hotel in the heart of the 12th District. Explore artisanal boutiques in the narrow streets or enjoy an extravagant night at the Bastille Opéra. Departs Nov 3/vth/ts.
ADD gourmet dinner cruise for $189.

Dublin Flights + 7 Nights $1239
Best Western Plus Academy Plaza Hotel
INCLUDES hotel near historic O'Connell Street in the hub of the city. Visit the famous Temple Bar nearby or discover 'the heart of Irish Sporting life' at Croke Park Stadium. Departs Nov 28/acv/ac. **ADD** 6-day Dublin attraction pass for $169.

Culinary Vacations

New York
New York City Beer Week
Flights + 3 Nights 4-Star
$679
Hudson Hotel
INCLUDES 4-star boutique hotel near Central Park during New York City Beer Week. Rare and obscure craft beers meet the iconic charm of the Big Apple as local, national and internationally renowned breweries to celebrate and promote this growing industry. Departs Feb 22/ggv/ac.

Vegas Uncork'd
Flights + 4 Nights 4-Star $949
Flamingo Las Vegas
INCLUDES hotel on the Strip during the Vegas Uncork'd 10th anniversary celebrations. Join celebrity chefs, innovative mixologists and expert sommeliers as they create a sensory experience. Departs Apr 27/ggv/ac.

Cayman Cookout
Flights + 5 Nights + Event Ticket $1775
Comfort Suites & Resort
INCLUDES all-suite hotel near Seven Mile Beach during the 2016 Cayman Cookout hosted by world-famous chef Eric Ripert. Enjoy tickets to "The Rundown" where celebrity chef and author Anthony Bourdain tastes and talks local flavours with Cayman's most acclaimed chefs. **BONUS** daily breakfast included. Departs Jan 13/ggv/ua.

All-inclusive Packages

Varadero 7 Nights 4-Star
$679
Mercure Playa de Oro
Departs Oct 28/swg/wg. **UPGRADE** to 4.5-star Grand Memories Varadero for $779.

Punta Cana 7 Nights 4-Star $839
Be Live Collection Punta Cana
Departs Nov 27/acv/ac. **UPGRADE** to 5-star Grand Bahia Principe Turquesa for $1029.

Riviera Maya 7 Nights 4-Star $885
Allegro Playacar Beach Club
Departs Nov 3/vth/ts. **UPGRADE** to 4.5-star Grand Bahia Principe Coba for $969.

Honduras 7 Nights 4-Star $999
Palma Real Caribe Hotel and Villas
Departs Jan 11/swg/wg.

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tico.ca

With the reconstructed cockpit displayed behind, Tjibbe Joustra, head of the Dutch Safety Board presents the board's final report into what caused Malaysia Airlines Flight 17 to break up high over Eastern Ukraine last year, killing all 298 people on board.
PETER DEJONG/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

MH17 downed by missile: Report

COLLATERAL DAMAGE

Russians deny involvement in attack

The missile shot skyward from war-ravaged eastern Ukraine. With deadly accuracy more than six miles up, it detonated just in front of the Malaysia Airlines jetliner, sending hundreds of jagged steel shards ripping through its aluminum skin at up to 9,000 km/h and shearing the cockpit from the rest of the plane.

The two pilots and purser in the cockpit died instantly, and the Boeing 777 disintegrated and fell to earth, killing the rest of the 298 men, women and children aboard Flight 17 on July 17, 2014, Dutch investigators said Tuesday in a long-awaited report.

Some of the victims may have been conscious for 60 to 90 seconds, the Dutch Safety Board said, but they probably were not fully aware of what was happening in the oxygen-starved, freezing chaos. The tornado-like airflow surging through the doomed jet as it came apart was powerful enough to tear off people's clothes and leave naked corpses amid the fields of sunflowers.

The 15-month Dutch investigation blamed a Soviet-made surface-to-air Buk missile for downing the Amsterdam to Kuala Lumpur flight, but it did not explicitly say who had fired it. It identified an area of 320 square kilometres where it said the launch must have taken place, and all of the land was in the hands of pro-Russian separatists fighting Ukrainian forces at the time of the disaster, according to daily maps of fighting released by the Ukrainian National Security Council.

> **"Nobody gave any thought of a possible threat to civil aviation."**
> Tjibbe Joustra

The Dutch Safety Board also found that the tragedy wouldn't have happened if the airspace of eastern Ukraine had been totally closed to passenger planes as fighting raged below.

Russian officials were prompt to dismiss the Dutch report, with Deputy Foreign Minister Sergei Ryabkov calling it an obvious "attempt to make a biased conclusion, in essence to carry out a political order."

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

U.S. DEMOCRATIC PRIMARY

Scandals hound Clinton campaign going into debate

Hillary Rodham Clinton entered Tuesday night's first Democratic debate a weakened front-runner, anxious to move past the controversy over her email practices and persuade voters she's the best-qualified candidate to lead the party to a third straight term in the White House.

Clinton, the former secretary of state, faces her biggest challenge this election cycle from Bernie Sanders, the rumpled independent senator from Vermont who has energized liberals with his call for a "political revolution."

Joining them on stage in Las Vegas was a trio of low-polling candidates looking for a breakthrough moment: former Maryland Gov. Martin O'Malley; Jim Webb, a former Navy secretary and U.S. senator from Virginia, and Lincoln Chafee, the Republican-turned independent-turned Democrat from Rhode Island.

While Clinton maintains financial and organizational advantages over her Democratic rivals, months of Republican criticism of her use of personal email and a private Internet server while in the Obama administration have shadowed her campaign and hurt her standing with voters. The Associated Press reported Tuesday that Clinton's server was connected to the Internet in ways that left it somewhat vulnerable to hackers.

Meanwhile Sanders is looking to broaden his appeal to more Democratic voters. The self-described democratic socialist, who is drawing massive crowds and challenging Clinton's fundraising prowess, has called for breaking up big Wall Street banks, expanding Social Security and providing free tuition to public colleges and universities.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

IN BRIEF

Beer giants AB InBev, SABMiller to join forces

The world's top two beer makers agreed Tuesday to join forces to create a company that would control nearly a third of the global market and bring together leading U.S. brands Budweiser and Miller Genuine Draft. After turning down five offers, U.K.-based brewer SABMiller accepted in principle an improved takeover bid worth $106 billion US from Anheuser-Busch InBev, which along with Budweiser makes Corona, Stella Artois and Beck's.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Starbucks starts delivery service for office workers

Starbucks is offering delivery within the Empire State Building, giving office workers in the New York City skyscraper the option of paying a $2 US fee to avoid making a trip to the lobby. The chain says the service is in line with its push to make its offerings increasingly convenient. That includes its recent rollout of mobile ordering, which lets people place orders ahead of time so their food and drinks are waiting for them when they arrive at their store.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

market minute

DOLLAR 76.81¢ (-0.49¢)

TSX 13,844.73 (-119.63)

OIL $46.66 US (-44¢)

GOLD $1,165.40 US (+90¢)

NATURAL GAS: $2.498 US (-3.7¢)
DOW JONES: 17,081.89 (-49.97)

Twitter loses characters

EMPLOYMENT

Purge marks company's first mass layoffs in 9-year history

Twitter is laying off up to 336 employees, signalling CEO Jack Dorsey's resolve to slash costs while the company struggles to make money.

The cutbacks announced Tuesday could equate to about eight per cent of Twitter's workforce of 4,100 people.

The purge comes two weeks after Twitter brought back one of its co-founders as permanent CEO in hopes that Dorsey would be able to resolve problems that have slowed user growth at the messaging service and compounded an uninterrupted cycle of financial losses.

Cutting costs can boost profits, but at Twitter, it has also raised uncertainty about the future, the company's pursuit of faster growth and its ability to attract a larger audience.

The layoffs may be a sign of desperation at a sinking company, said Edison Investment Research analyst Richard Windsor.

"It is important to run a tight ship, but simply cutting jobs is often the action of a company that does not know what else to do," Windsor said.

Dorsey told Twitter employees in a Tuesday letter that a more streamlined company will result in more products rolling out more quickly. "We feel strongly that engineering will move much faster with a smaller and nimbler team," Dorsey wrote.

Twitter's workforce has nearly doubled over the past two years, hindering efforts to turn a profit for the first time in its nine-year history. Since Dorsey and his partners started the service, Twitter has lost nearly $2 billion US.

Dorsey has acknowledged that Twitter is too confusing for many people to use, turning off new users at a time when other social services such as Snapchat and Facebook's WhatsApp have grown in popularity.

As part of its revival plan, Twitter last week unveiled a new feature called Moments that packages commentary, video and photos about major events that have captured people's attention. The work on Moments began while Dorsey's predecessor, Dick Costolo, was still Twitter's CEO.

After returning as CEO, Dorsey promised to make Twitter even more accessible to the masses by next year. Jettisoning jobs will give Twitter more financial leeway while it designs new tools.

Retrenching will cost Twitter $10 million to $20 million, mostly to pay for employee severance packages.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Downsizing signals Twitter's push to slash costs as it tries to make money. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

> **"Cutting jobs is often the action of a company that does not know what else to do."**
> Richard Windsor

COMPUTERS

Apple unveils upgraded iMacs

Apple is adding Retina displays to its iMacs, which will enhance the text and the image quality of photos and videos.

The California-based company said its 21.5-inch iMac will have a Retina 4K display, while every 27-inch iMac will have a Retina 5K display. The 21-inch iMac, which starts at $1,099, and 27-inch iMac, which starts at $1,799, are available in three models and come standard with a new Magic Keyboard and Magic Mouse 2.

Apple's 27-inch iMac comes with Retina 5K display.
APPLE INC/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

The technology giant redesigned Magic devices including the Magic keyboard, Magic Mouse 2 and Magic Trackpad 2. Those products have rechargeable batteries.

The new trackpad marks the first time Apple has made its Force Touch Trackpad feature available for a desktop. Force Touch allows users access to several shortcuts by touching the trackpad in different ways.

Apple said the iMacs will also have new storage options and more powerful processors and graphics. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Born this way: A large California study of identical twins has found genetic modifiers that accurately predict sexual orientation — spurring worries over misguided "cures" and "tests" for gayness.

URBAN ETIQUETTE ELLEN VANSTONE

THE QUESTION

I am hosting a birthday dinner this weekend and invited a bunch of different people, including some with extreme views. How can I stop them from arguing about the election and spoiling supper?

Dear Ellen,

I am hosting a birthday dinner this weekend for a friend who has invited a bunch of different people, including some with extreme political views. How do I stop them from arguing about the election and spoiling the whole dinner party?

Sine, Winnipeg

Dear Sine,

Isn't it funny how people we disagree with have extreme political views, while we invariably see our own political prejudices as firmly held beliefs?

See? I don't even know whether you and I will vote the same way on Monday and I'm already provoking an argument. Perhaps it's due to years of consorting with loudmouthed journalists, but I rather enjoy lively debate anywhere, including at the dinner table.

Admittedly, my journalist friends tend to see political arguments more as a blood sport than the expression of firmly held beliefs. But this lack of any heartfelt conviction on their part is what makes them so entertaining. They delight in bashing each other with well-researched facts and clever quips without getting emotionally invested, providing pure entertainment for the rest of us.

If you wanted to spend the evening with like-minded individuals indulging in a self-righteous orgy of shared beliefs, you'd skip the dinner party and go straight to your Close Friends on Facebook.

If you're lucky enough to have friends like these, I suggest you sit back and enjoy the spectacle, stepping in only occasionally, like the Speaker of the House, to restore order when things get too raucous.

If, however, your friends are normal human beings who tend to get emotionally invested in things like the outcome of the election and the future of our nation, you are absolutely right to fear that your dinner party will be spoiled. Outside of couples counselling, where histrionic behaviour is a privilege that's paid for, violently emotional arguments are indecorous to say the least.

There is nothing more boring than passionate blowhards yelling at each other, everyone refusing to change their minds or listen to other points of view, while expecting their own points of view to be heard and other minds to change.

Or, wait, maybe there is something more boring: like when a bunch of passionate blowhards all agree with each other and spend the entire dinner trashing the same tired political targets.

Seriously, if you wanted to spend the evening with like-minded individuals indulging in a self-righteous orgy of shared beliefs, you'd skip the trouble of a dinner party and go straight to your Close Friends on Facebook.

My advice is to avoid either of these boring-blowhard outcomes by choosing one of the following options:

The first is to ban political discussion altogether. Your house, your rules. It may seem peremptory but it's actually polite: you are taking your friends' enjoyment into consideration by ensuring that a dinner party's raison d'être — the conversation — doesn't devolve into an overwrought colloquy of firmly held and sanctimoniously expressed "beliefs."

If you can't shut up the blowhards, the second option is to try to throw them off their game. When any of the names Harper, Mulcair or Trudeau come up, assume your guests are suggesting a game of date-marry-kill and interject accordingly. Throw in Elizabeth May to mix it up. Segue to Berlusconi, Putin and Sarkozy for the second round. Or Hillary Clinton, Angela Merkel and … hmm … Queen Elizabeth? Steer the conversation toward the lamentable lack of female candidates for this game. Be as emotional or fatuous as you like for as long as it takes to get the blowhards to agree to talk about something, anything, non-political.

And if you can manage that level of misdirection and talking-point discipline, then maybe it's time to run for office yourself.

Need advice?
Email Ellen:
scene@metronews.ca

metroview

An expensive, never-ending episode of What Not to Wear

Diane Baker Mason
For Metro

When I was in Grade 8 — back when the earth was cooling — the girls at our public school staged a revolution against the board of education's dress code. It forbade us from wearing pants, even when it was freezing cold, even though lots of us hated dresses, even though dresses restricted us (just try to slide into third wearing a dress and not show your underwear).

The school board made strained arguments: girls and women wearing pants were immodest, unattractive, even unhealthy. But times were changing — this was 1970, after all! — and the girls made a huge fuss. Before long, an announcement was made. We could wear pants. Finally, we were free.

Perhaps that's why, in my own middle-aged, middle-class, secular white-woman cultural bubble, I dislike the idea of niqabs and burkas. They seem an affront to freedom. I, personally, cannot imagine choosing to wear one and I feel a frisson of horror at the idea of being forced to do so. Perhaps I can justify this by observing that there are regimes in this world that restrict women's freedoms by legislating that they veil completely. But I remind myself that this is Canada. Canadian law does not require women to veil.

It also does not require them to take their veils off.

Despite this, our government has waged a legal war on a woman named Zunera Ishaq, using a quarter-million dollars of taxpayers' money. They pursued her through the courts, trying to force her to remove her veil when she took her oath of citizenship, arguing her covered face was "disrespectful" — as weak an argument as the ones the school board made. The courts rejected it. Even so, the government won't give up. It's taking it to the Supreme Court.

That court has interpreted the Charter of Rights and Freedoms to require that reasonable accommodation be made for Canadians' religious and cultural garb. No law that violates someone's rights (as does the provision in the Citizenship Act that requires a woman to unveil in public) is allowed to stand. Instead, she is allowed to remove her veil in private. Harper knows this but he continues to pursue Ishaq, knowing that to many ignorant and fearful voters, he appears to be protecting national security.

In fact, the Charter protects Ishaq — from her own government's imposition of an unfair law. Veiled women are entitled to the protection of the Charter. Just like us schoolgirls, they are allowed to wear what they want.

Because, after all, it's a free country.

Diane Baker Mason is a Toronto-based novelist, writer and retired lawyer.

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Amanda Lang leaves the CBC to pursue a "new opportunity"

A look back at the non-nudes

Hugh Hefner and actress Barbara Benton arriving at Le Bourget airport with the Playboy jet Big Bunny in 1970. The magazine that helped usher in the sexual revolution by bringing nudity into America's living rooms – or at least its sock drawers – announced this week that it will no longer run photos of completely naked women. STRINGER/AFP/GETTY IMAGES

MAKING HISTORY

Feminism, murder, politics: A retrospective

Seeing its circulation plunge thanks to high-definition porn, Playboy will soon be covering up its Playmates. But history remembers the skin mag for much more than photos of naked women. A look at significant events in its six-decade history:

1 A Bunny's Tale
In this 1963 exposé, Gloria Steinem described her time as an undercover bunny waitress. The feminist icon wrote of long, often dull hours.

2 'Adultery in my heart':
Jimmy Carter stirred things up in 1976 when as a presidential candidate, he told Playboy he had "committed adultery in my heart many times," while quoting from the Bible to say that "anyone who looks on a woman with lust has in his heart already committed adultery."

3 Star 80
Dorothy Stratten of Vancouver was named Playmate of the Year in 1980 and murdered by her estranged husband shortly after. Her life and death were the topic for the 1983 film Star 80, starring Mariel Hemingway and Eric Roberts.

4 AIDS activist
In 1994, former model Rebekka Lynn Armstrong of California announced that she had tested positive for HIV in 1989. Armstrong, who appeared in the magazine's September 1986 issue, became an HIV/AIDS activist and safer sex educator.

5 Big nyet
The Russian Academy of Sciences sued Playboy's Russian edition in 1996 for featuring nude and semi-nude portraits of famous Russian woman including Catherine the Great.

6 Spousal abuse 'advice'
The Romanian edition of Playboy ran an article in 2000 called, How to Beat Your Wife Without Leaving Traces. When called on the carpet by Christie Hefner, Playboy Enterprises' chairman and CEO, the magazine's Romanian deputy editor-in-chief said it was just an April Fools' joke.

7 Literary coup
Playboy won first serial rights to a novel that writer Vladimir Nabokov wanted burned. Instead of destroying The Original of Laura, Nabokov's only surviving heir decided to publish it and Playboy scooped up the rights in 2009.

8 Get Bart out of the room!
In an effort to attract readers in their 20s, Playboy's editors put cartoon character Marge Simpson on the cover of the November 2009 issue.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

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JLaw minds Hollywood wage gap

PAY ATTENTION

Oscar-winning and afraid to negotiate, not be likeable

Jennifer Lawrence says she blamed herself for failing as a negotiator when she learned from the leaked Sony emails that her male co-stars were paid more for American Hustle.

The Oscar-winning actress wrote in an essay for the online newsletter Lenny on Tuesday that she didn't want to fight for millions of dollars, partly because she didn't need the money and partly because she didn't want to come across as "difficult" or "spoiled."

Lenny is a recently launched weekly newsletter from Lena Dunham and her Girls executive producer Jenni Konner.

Jennifer Lawrence
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

OPINION PIECE

Adorable no more

In the thoughtful essay, Lawrence wonders if she's wasted her time trying to be likable while her male counterparts are commended for being fierce.

She ultimately concludes that she's "over" finding adorable ways to state her opinion.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

BOND BREAK ACTOR INSPECTS UN DEMINING Daniel Craig's globetrotting brought him to Cyprus, but not to film any scenes as James Bond. The British actor was on the eastern Mediterranean island Tuesday to inspect the United Nations' work in clearing minefields, a vestige of the conflict that divided this island along ethnic lines more than four decades ago. The UN has removed more than 27,000 landmines from the island's buffer zone over the last decade but it's estimated that thousands more remain. "I've much hope that I will be the first and last global advocate to see land mines on this beautiful island," said Craig. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Gomez on ex-bf Bieber: 'I got my heart broken'

YOUNG LOVE

Selena says they grew up together, both made mistakes

Ned Ehrbar
Metro | Hollywood

Selena Gomez opens up about her breakup with Bieber. ALL PHOTOS GETTY IMAGES

Selena Gomez is just about done with her press blitz to publicize her new album, which means she's also just about done having to give introspective and revealing interviews. But what could one more hurt?

Gomez opens up to Refinery 29 about her relationship with Justin Bieber and the media glare around it.

"I think people really wanted to see me fail. I'd sit down in an interview and get the most harshly asked questions. Of course I got my heart broken. Of course I was pissed about it. There, everybody has it. I was so disappointed, because I never wanted my career to be a tabloid story," she says.

"At this point, there is no anger. There's closure in a very good, healthy way. We've seen each other. I'm always encouraging and I am proud of his journey. I think people are making it out to be something that is more tragic than it really was. We grew up together. We both made mistakes. That's it."

So, we all good now?

R-RATED

Styles goes full monty on Segway

While everyone's been talking about Justin Bieber's privates — including his dad, which is just icky — thanks to some awkward paparazzi photos, news of another young pop singer's clothing-optional exploits might have slipped through the cracks. But fear not, I'm here to fill you in.

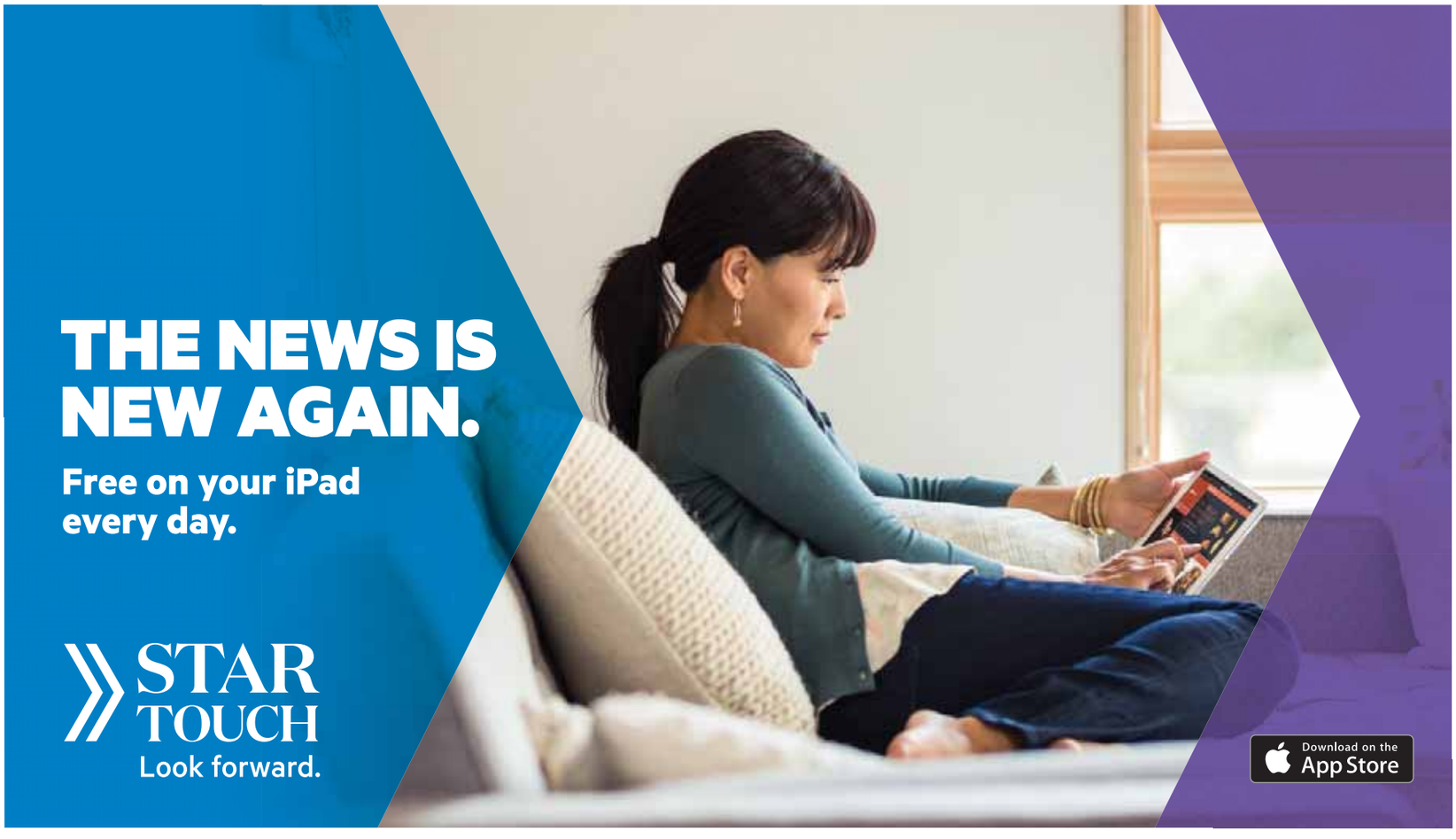
According to the boys in 5 Seconds of Summer, touring with One Direction — and particularly Harry Styles — can be more than a little revealing. Band member Ashton Irwin tells Alan Carr during an interview that backstage at one tour stop, Styles stunned the band by zipping around completely naked on a Segway.

"It was just once. I saw full-on ball-sack," Irwin says before Michael Clifford adds, "The worst part was that Luke [Hemming]'s mom was standing right there, and he comes in on the Segway, just butt naked, sees Luke's mom and turns around."

That sounds like a pretty hilarious visual, except for one aspect Irwin forgot to add: "It was like his first time on a Segway, too, so it was kind of awkward turning around and trying to hide things at the same time."

Maybe get some more practice first before going full streaker, Harry?

NED EHRBAR/ METRO HOLLYWOOD



The sweet side of figs

RECIPE

This versatile fruit can make a simple snack or fancy fare

Rob Gentile, chef-owner of a trio of Buca restaurants in Toronto, says eating a voluptuous fig straight from the tree is an incredible experience.

"You should eat it sitting down," Gentile says, "and reflect on how good it is."

While finding a truly delicious fig in Canada can be frustrating, that doesn't stop him from cooking with them. He poaches the fresh fruit in sugar syrup with grappa and espresso for his brunch menus, and insists that figs, pork blood and chocolate, a regional Italian specialty, make a "heavenly" combination.

But don't think figs need to be complicated. A simple snack like a bagel or slice of toast smeared with cream cheese and topped with mashed fig halves is easy and delicious.

California Fig Pizza

Adapted from the California Fig Advisory Board.

Caramelized shallots:

- 2 Tbsp (30 mL) butter
- 5 shallots, peeled and sliced thin
- 1 Tbsp (15 mL) molasses
- 2 Tbsp (30 mL) sherry or balsamic vinegar
- Salt and freshly ground black pepper to taste

Pizza

- 400 g fresh pizza dough, at room temperature, cut in half
- 4 fresh figs, sliced 1/4 inch (.5 cm) thick
- 1 Tbsp (15 mL) extra virgin olive oil
- Salt and freshly ground black pepper to taste
- 2 oz (60 g) goat cheese, crumbled
- 2 Tbsp (30 mL) grated or shaved Parmigiano-Reggiano cheese
- 4 thin slices Prosciutto di Parma, cut in strips
- Garnish: arugula sprigs

1. For caramelized shallots, melt butter in large saucepan and cook 5 to 10 minutes or until soft and golden brown. Stir in molasses and vinegar; season to taste with salt and pepper. Cook, stirring, until liquid is absorbed. Set aside.

2. Place pizza stone or heavy baking sheet in oven and preheat to 500F (260C).

3. Place half the dough on a 12x12-inch (30x20 cm) piece of parchment paper. Roll into a 9-inch (23 cm) circle with lightly floured rolling pin. Brush with half the olive oil and spread half the caramelized shallots over all, leaving a 1/2-inch (1 cm) border.

4. Arrange slices from two figs 1/2-inch (1 cm) apart over shallots and season lightly with salt and pepper.

Sprinkle half the goat cheese and 1 Tbsp (15 mL) Parmigiano evenly over all. Transfer sheet with pizza to preheated pan and bake 10 to 15 minutes or until cheese and edge of crust are lightly browned.

5. Repeat with second pizza or bake both at the same time. Transfer to cutting board, cool slightly then cut in wedges. Garnish with sliced prosciutto and arugula.

Serve warm or at room temperature. Makes two nine-inch pizzas.

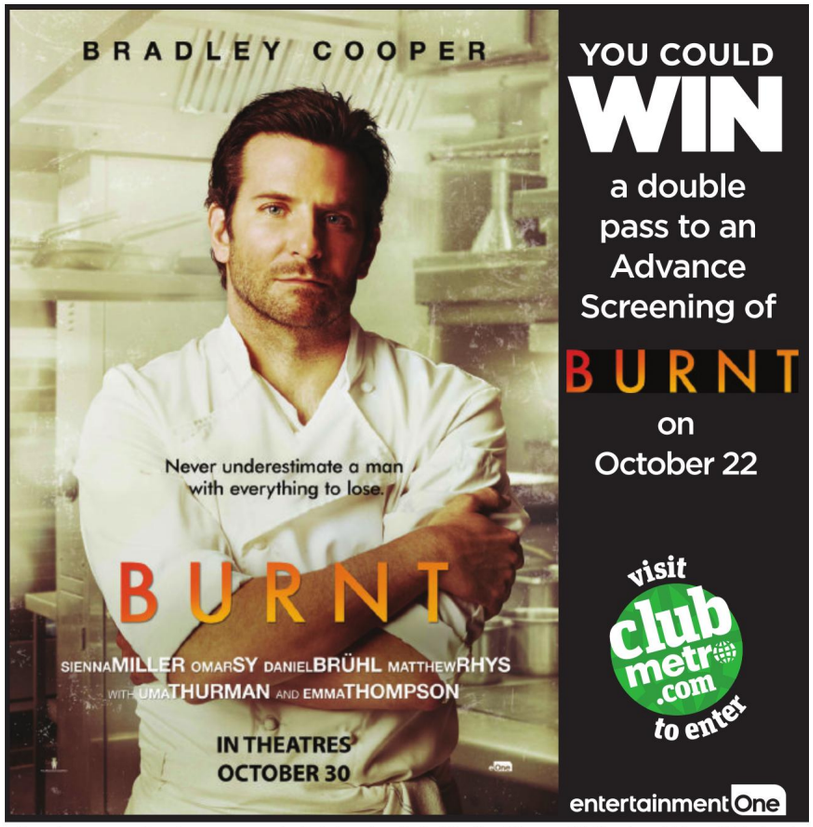
TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

$15M

The value of the figs (4,423 tons) Canadians imported from California in 2014, according to the California Fig Advisory Board.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

This California Fig Pizza features caramelized shallots and Prosciutto di Parma . TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE



No purchase necessary. One entry per person, per day. Contest open to residents of the cities of Vancouver, BC, Edmonton and Calgary, AB, Toronto and Ottawa, ON, Winnipeg, MB, and Halifax, NS, who have attained the age of majority in their province of residence as at the start of the Contest Period. Odds of winning depend on the number of eligible entries received in each city. Thirty (30) prizes are available to be won in each market, consisting of a double pass to a screening of Burnt on October 22, 2015. Approximate retail value of each prize is $25 CDN. Each selected entrant must correctly answer, unaided, a mathematical skill-testing question to be declared a winner. Contest Period opens at 12:01 am ET on October 13, 2015 and closes at 11:59 pm ET on October 18, 2015. To enter and for complete contest rules visit www.clubmetro.com.

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Inside the mystique of Trader Joe's

BOUTIQUE GROCERIES

Scoping out the secretive chain's Buffalo outpost

Trader Joe's has its fans, its cultists and its detractors.

So what exactly is it about this boutique grocery chain that inspires such passion?

Is it the fact that this tiki-themed, culinary cruise ship is staffed by cheerful crew, merchants, mates and captains? Or how about the way that TJ's notorious secrecy plays so well in this age of TMI?

How many people know that Trader Joe's, despite being headquartered in California, has been privately owned by Germany's Albrecht family since 1979?

Probably not as many as can decipher those ringing bells, heard on a recent "investigative" trip to the store in Buffalo, NY. One bell is a call to open a cash register, two means there's a question at the checkout, and three is a request for a manager.

"We wear Hawaiian shirts because we're traders on the culinary seas, searching the world over for cool items to bring home to our customers," the company's website says, of its distinct theme. "And when we return home, we think grocery shopping should be fun, not another chore. So just relax and leave your worries at the door. We'll sail those seven seas, you have some fun with our finds at your neighbourhood Trader Joe's."

Trader Joe's is smaller than you'd imagine, making it a pleasure to navigate. The crew members don't have much insight into Canadian customers, but eagerly tout their favourite products.

The company shuns social media and lets fans run @traderjoeslist on Twitter.

Last year, the chain of 400-plus stores dropped plans to open in an African-American neighbourhood in Portland after activists voiced fears that gentrification would price the black community out of the area.

The company touts high standards for its private label — no artificial flavours or preservatives, genetically modified ingredients or synthetic colours, et cetera — but won't reveal who its vendors are so customers can't verify these claims.

Beth Kowitt, writing in Fortune in 2010 about the "secret world" of Trader Joe's, declares the chain "an offbeat, fun discovery zone that elevates food shopping from a chore to a cultural experience."

It stocks its shelves, she writes, "with a winning combination of low-cost, yuppie-friendly staples ... and exotic, affordable luxuries."

Indeed, the prices are a big draw. This ain't no Whole Foods Market (a.k.a. "whole paycheque").

Toronto immigration attorney Mackenzie Houck, a transplanted American, lived off TJ's frozen bean and rice burritos during law school.

She adores peanut butter-filled salted pretzels, veggie and flaxseed tortilla chips, natural turkey jerky, fireworks chocolate bars, eggplant hummus, dry and unsalted almonds, Wasabi Wow trail mix and multivitamins (huh?).

Houck doesn't drive, so her "TJs pipeline" includes care packages from her mom, gifts from visiting friends and whatever she can stuff in her carry-on bag when she travels.

"When someone is heading to/through Buffalo, they'll ask the other Americans for any items they need," adds Houck. "It's also nearly mandatory to share the booty upon return."

Will a Canada TJ's ever happen?

"One can only dream," says Houck.

So far, the company's only foray into Canada has been a legal tussle.

In 2013, the company lost its legal battle with Pirate Joe's, a small Vancouver retailer that declares itself an "unauthorized, unaffiliated, unafraid" reseller of Trader Joe's products.

Pirate Joe's owner Michael Hallatt buys retail in America, imports legally and adds proper Canadian labels. Good on him.

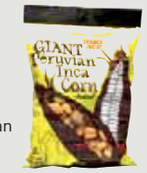
TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

NICHE MARKET
Trader Joe's stores have much less choice — apparently 4,000 products instead of 50,000 for a typical American supermarket.

Grocery chain Trader Joe's is instantly recognizable once inside. Quirky and witty signs are spread throughout the store, enticing customers. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

WORTH CROSSING THE BORDER FOR

After taste-testing $150 worth of goods, here are the five Trader Joe's products we will buy again.



1 Giant Peruvian Inca corn ($1.79)
Sometimes you just need to crunch. These Peruvian white corn kernels (supposedly five times the size of their North American counterparts) are toasted, salted and pleasing beyond belief. Caveat: The same thing can be found at Loblaws under a different brand.

2 Crunchy, salted peanut butter with flax and chia seeds ($2.99)
Who would have guessed that flax and chia make for a scrumptious (and nutritious) threesome with peanut butter? The flax is from Saskatchewan, BTW. Support Canadian farmers.

3 Ghost chili grinder ($4.99)
Dried, smoked ghost chilies (a.k.a. bhut jolokia, the world's third hottest pepper) come in a cute spice jar with a built-in grinder. Perfect host/hostess gift.

4 Quinoa and black bean infused tortilla chips ($2.99)
Tortillas are usually a vehicle for salsa for me, but these combine stone-ground white corn, red quinoa and black beans into something that speaks to me and are best eaten without adornment.

5 Sea salt and turbinado sugar dark chocolate almonds ($3.99)
Four food groups (salt, sugar, chocolate, nuts) unite in bite-sized flavour explosions. Hoarding alert: These are too good to share.

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Getting stuck on barnacles

SUSTAINABILITY

This weird and tasty creature can be enjoyed guilt-free

Theresa Albert
For Metro Canada

Gooseneck barnacles have a calamari feel and taste somewhat briny. THERESA ALBERT

"Sustainable" has become the sweetest word on every foodie's lips. It is today's conundrum to choose foods that are affordable, delicious and good for both you and the planet.

Ocean Wise is a program established by the Vancouver Aquarium that is one of 18 organizations working together across North America to help save our oceans but keep us eating delicious fish. They estimate that 90 per cent of the world's predatory fish are gone already. This is why they certify fisheries and keep up-to-date suggestions on which fish to enjoy.

One of the newest species on the recommended list is the gooseneck barnacles that you may be seeing on restaurant menus this season. A delicacy in Spain and Portugal, where they are called percebes, the shell is inedible but the protruding foot has a calamari feel, which tastes somewhat briny.

Given the cost — ranging from $16 to $30 for an appetizer or $20/lb. to buy them from the fishery — they are usually the fare of higher-end restaurants. Typically, they're served as one or two in a dish that will take on the accompanying flavours, much like mussels in garlic broth. This unfortunate-looking tiny shellfish is harvested by hand by the Nuu-chah-nulth First Nations fishery in B.C. The barnacles have a short shelf life, so fishermen do not harvest them until they receive an order.

Consuming barnacles, which are lower on the food chain, is more Earth friendly than consuming the increasingly rare predatory fish.

But you don't have to go all the way to barnacles — maybe sardines instead of salmon is a more simple switch.

Theresa is an on-camera food and health expert, nutritionist and writer who loves to spread the word on food

LIQUID ASSETS

Apples a core part of booze products

Peter Rockwell
For Metro Canada

If you'd asked me a year or so ago if grapes were in danger of not being the highest ranking pieces of fruit to produce alcoholic beverages, I would have choked on my Cabernet Sauvignon.

While grapes still rule when it comes to wine production, in today's booze market the apple is making a solid run for the second-most popular flavouring agent in just about everything else.

At the core of the apple's popularity is the rise of cider. Once considered the tipple of the lower gentry, cider has now found mass appreciation across Canada thanks to local artisan producers getting crafty with their creations.

Both beer and spirit makers are seeing dollar signs growing in the orchards, and the Crown Royal Apple Whisky ($26.49-$31.99) takes the classic CR recipe and infuses it with the candied-sweet flavour of Regal Gala apples.

The fruit dominates through to the last drop, making it a smooth and easy-drinking fall season sipper. *Prices reflect the range across the country. Some products may not be available in all provinces.*

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Getting hitched abroad without a hitch

MARRIAGE ABROAD

Avoid the pitfalls of a destination wedding

Vawn Himmelsbach

Pacific Resort Rarotonga. CONTRIBUTED

Destination Wedding at InterContinental Bora Bora and Thalasso Spa. GOWAY TRAVEL

Over Water Chapel at InterContinental Bora Bora and Thalasso Spa. GOWAY TRAVEL

We've all heard horror stories about the destination wedding gone wrong: the wedding dress that got lost in transit, the relatives who missed their connecting flight, the resort that didn't have space to accommodate the wedding party indoors during a torrential downpour.

While planning a destination wedding has its share of challenges, a few tips can help avoid common pitfalls.

The main challenge is picking the destination itself. "About 80 per cent of brides and grooms come to us without an idea," said Laurie Keith, president of Romantic Planet Vacations, a travel agency that specializes in destination weddings and honeymoons.

"I've had brides come to me crying in those early stages, [saying] 'I'm so overwhelmed, I don't know where to start,'" she said. "Most people haven't been to those destinations or that resort, so they're a little leery too."

She recommends working with a certified destination wedding specialist, which means the agent is trained and certified on the destinations they're selling — and can help brides narrow down their choices by wedding size, budget and interests.

Most Canadians opt for an all-inclusive resort, said Keith. Many resorts offer wedding packages to suit a variety of budgets and have an on-site wedding planner. Cruise ships also have wedding planners onboard.

But Keith is also seeing a trend toward venturing off the resort for a reception in a local restaurant or on a private beach. And some couples want a more customized option; Keith has helped organize weddings at vineyards in Italy or riding an elephant down the aisle in Thailand.

One of the key considerations is cost — not only what you want to spend on the wedding but what you want guests to spend on travel, says Tara Soloway, managing director of LUXE Destination Weddings (part of the Sunwing Travel Group).

"Pricing is less expensive during the summer and early fall months — however, weather is hotter and more risky as it's hurricane season," she said.

Another consideration is distance — is it a quick, direct flight or a two-plane, one boat and three-hour drive destination? "The latter might deter guests from attending," said Soloway, "so if keeping numbers up is important to you, choose a destination that is easy to get to and offers a little something for everyone."

For large wedding parties, Keith recommends staying at one of the larger all-inclusive resorts, since it can appease everyone with more restaurant options and more activities (including kids' clubs). They could even book out a smaller resort, which usually comes with a premium charge. But, "everything is for you," she said. "If you want the music to go on until 2 a.m. every night then you can do it."

All-inclusive wedding packages typically include round-trip airfare, as well as transport from the airport.

But brides shouldn't assume everything is included. "All private events at all-inclusive hotels come at an additional cost," said Soloway. "Many couples are still surprised to find this out, but anything outside of the regular day-to-day operations means that extra food and staff need to be brought in for your event."

For couples considering an all-inclusive resort, Soloway recommends finding out how many weddings take place each day, if it has a dedicated wedding planner, and what ceremony and reception options are available.

No matter how prepared a couple is, life happens — flights get delayed, a sunny day turns stormy. Having contingencies and a sense of humour can keep complications from ruining the big day.

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Toyota to debut Kirobo Mini, a robotic companion for long road trips, at Tokyo Motor Show

New CX-5 stays on good track

ROAD TESTED

REVIEW

Mazda makes minor tweaks to an already decent ride

Jil McIntosh
For Metro Canada

Few things tick me off more than change for the sake of change. I'm tired of having to track down a grocery item because the package is different, or seeing that my running shoe has been discontinued because its design was more than a year old.

So I was pleased to discover that when Mazda updated its CX-5 for 2016, it only made some minor tweaks to a vehicle that was already a very decent driver.

The grille changes slightly on all models, while my top-line GT gets LED accent lighting and new wheels. The rear seats are more supportive, there's an electric parking brake in place of a lever, and a new infotainment system sits in the dash, controlled by a joystick in the centre console rather than buttons alongside the screen.

The GT also receives navigation as standard equipment.

Two engines are available, starting with a 2.0-litre four-cylinder in the base GX. That trim is front-wheel drive only, and offers a stick shift or automatic. The GS and GT trims use a 2.5-litre four-cylinder with a six-speed automatic. The GS can be ordered in front- or all-wheel drive, while the GT is AWD only.

The CX-5 shares both its platform and that 2.5-litre engine with the Mazda6. Like that sedan, the CX-5 accelerates briskly and handles beautifully, with far sportier performance than you'd expect from an SUV.

My GT tester was optioned with a Technology Package, which adds such items as adaptive cruise control, automatic high-beam headlights, forward collision warning with braking, and a lane departure system that blares a rumble-strip sound out of the stereo speaker if you drift out of your lane. The package also adds satellite radio, though I thought that should have been bundled with the premium stereo that's part of the GT's equipment list.

But be warned: If you opt for this top-line trim, it can be as much as $1,000 more than similarly-equipped rivals. Be sure to check out all the trim levels and features if this Mazda is on your radar.

"The CX-5 accelerates briskly and handles beautifully, with far sportier performance than you'd expect from an SUV.

THE CHECKLIST | 2016 MAZDA CX-5

THE BASICS

Type. Four-door, five-passenger compact SUV
Engine (hp/torque). 2.0-litre I4 (155/150); 2.5-litre I4 (184/185)
Transmissions. 6-speed manual (2.0 only); 6-speed automatic
Price. Base $22,995, as-tested $37,295 (plus destination)

JIL MCINTOSH/FOR METRO

COOL FEATURES

- 40/20/40-split flat-folding rear seat
- Blind-spot monitoring
- Wide-angle rearview camera
- Automatic headlight levelling system
- Joystick controller for infotainment screen
- Forward collision alert with low-speed braking
- Lane departure warning system

POINTS

- In addition to minor styling changes and interior improvements, new standard and optional features have been added to all of the trim lines.
- Voice recognition on the navigation system accepts an entire address, rather than saying each line at a time.
- The optional adaptive cruise control keeps a pre-set distance from the vehicle ahead, but it tends to be jerkier than systems from most other manufacturers.

MARKET POSITION

The CX-5 is now the middle child in Mazda's SUV lineup, between the smaller CX-3 and three-row CX-9. It was introduced in 2013, replacing the slightly larger CX-7 that bowed out after the 2012 model year.

THE COMPETITION

Ford Escape
Base price: $23,899

Honda CR-V
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Hyundai Tucson
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LEASE PAYMENTS INCLUDE FREIGHT AND PDI. DEALER ORDER/TRADE MAY BE NECESSARY.

HONDA

Limited time lease and finance offers available through Honda Financial Services Inc. (HFS), to qualified retail customers on approved credit. Weekly payments include freight and PDI (ranges from $1,495 to $1,695 depending on model), EHF tires ($28.45), EHF filters (ranges from $1.00 to $1.55 depending on model), A/C charge ($100), and OMVIC fee ($5). Taxes, license, insurance and registration are extra. *$2,500 // $2,500 cash incentive is valid on any new 2015 Civic Coupe and Sedan (except Civic Si Sedan and Hybrid models) // 2015 Accord Coupe models when registered and delivered between October 1st and November 2nd, 2015. Cash incentive is comprised of $1,000 // $500 customer incentive which is deducted from the negotiated price after taxes (can be combined with advertised lease and finance rates); plus $1,500 // $2,000 non-stackable customer cash which is deducted from the negotiated price after taxes (available for Honda retail customers except customers who lease or finance through HFS at a subvented rate of interest offered by Honda as part of a low rate interest program. All advertised lease and finance rates are special rates). ΩRepresentative weekly lease example: 2015 Civic Si Sedan 6MT (Model FB6E5FKV) // 2015 CR-V LX 2WD (Model RM3H3FES) // 2015 Accord LX Sedan 6MT (Model CR2E3FE) on a 60 month term with 260 weekly payments at 0.99% // 1.99% // 0.99% lease APR. Weekly payment is $72.98 // $69.76 // $61.68 with $0 down or equivalent trade-in and $0 // $435 // $620 total lease incentive included. Down payments, $0 security deposit and first weekly payment due at lease inception. Total lease obligation is $18,974.33 // $18,136.65 // $16,035.67. 120,000 kilometre allowance; charge of $0.12/km for excess kilometres. PPSA lien registration fee of $45.93 and lien registering agent's fee of $5.65, due at time of delivery are not included. †Representative finance example: 2015 Civic Si Sedan 6MT (Model FB6E5FKV) with a selling price of $28,525.65 (includes freight, PDI, levies, OMVIC fee, and PPSA; excludes license and HST) on an 84 month term at 0.99% APR, the monthly payment is $351.63. Finance amount is $28,525.65. Cost of borrowing is $1,011.27 for a total finance obligation of $29,536.92 with $0 down or equivalent trade-in. ♦$1,500 // $2,000 total customer cash incentive is valid on any new 2015 CR-V (except CR-V LX 2WD) // 2015 Accord Sedan (except LX 6MT) models when registered and delivered between October 1st and November 2nd, 2015. Cash incentive is available for Honda retail customers except customers who lease or finance through HFS at a subvented rate of interest offered by Honda as part of a low rate interest program. All advertised lease and finance rates are special rates. Customer cash incentive will be deducted from the negotiated price after taxes. For all offers: license, insurance, other taxes (including HST) and excess wear and tear are extra. Taxes payable on full amount of purchase price. Offers only valid for Ontario residents at Ontario Honda Dealers. Dealer may sell/lease for less. Dealer order/trade may be necessary. Colour availability may vary by dealer. Vehicles and accessories are for illustration purposes only. Offers, prices and features subject to change without notice. See your Ontario Honda Dealer or visit HondaOntario.com for full details. ••Based on Association of International Automobile Manufacturers of Canada (AIAMC) data reflecting sales between 1997 and December 2014.

Volt further zaps range anxiety

ELECTRIC CARS

Battery-only range gets boost in new Volt

Having eliminated the phenomenon of range anxiety over plug-in electric cars with its original Chevrolet Volt sedan, General Motors has greatly increased the second-generation Volt's electric-only range, upping it to 85 kilometres from the original model's 56. Chevrolet estimates the new car's electric-only range will be enough to cover 90 per cent of most buyers' daily driving needs, reports Motor Authority. Once the car's electric range is depleted, the small on-board gasoline engine kicks in to work in tandem with the electric drive system, adding approximately another 670 kilometres of range. According to Motor Authority, "Chevy believes that most Volt owners will easily run 1,000 miles (1,600 kilometres) at a time between fill-ups."

GLOBAL LAUNCH

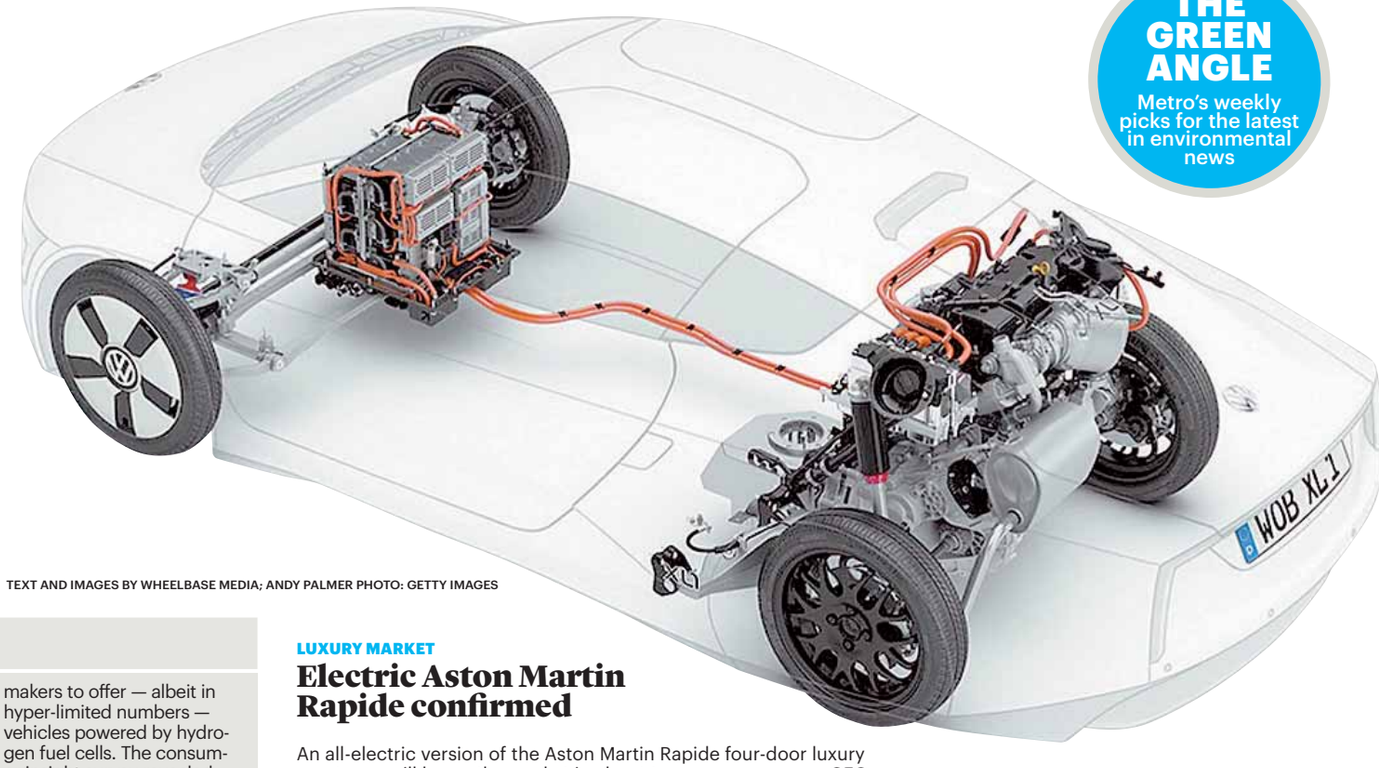
Early adopters get the Mirai

Over the summer Toyota took another step toward a hydrogen-based future with the arrival of the first hand-built Mirai fuel-cell vehicles in the United Kingdom. The cars were part of the first consignment to reach Europe ahead of the car's official launch in September, about the same time the Mirai went on limited sale in the United States (initially California only) and Japan. Toyota, which hopes to sell 3,000 Mirais globally over the next three years, debuted the car in markets where hydrogen fuel supply and retail infrastructures were already being developed. The limited number available in Britain had already been pre-sold, primarily by business and corporate customers.

EDUCATION

Preparing for the 'powertrain tech boom'

The auto industry generally is about to experience a "powertrain tech boom" that buyers might be "nowhere close to ready for," says industry news and data purveyor Ward's Auto. The company's analysts suggest it could be a challenge to convince the public to pay more for increased fuel efficiency and lower greenhouse-gas emissions, especially in the near term while gasoline prices remain low. People generally know little about diesel, hybrid and plug-in electric powertrains and what they can do, said Bryan Krulikowski of Morpace Market Research and Consulting.



THE GREEN ANGLE
Metro's weekly picks for the latest in environmental news

TEXT AND IMAGES BY WHEELBASE MEDIA; ANDY PALMER PHOTO: GETTY IMAGES

FUEL CELLS

Three-quarters of Canadians support hydrogen: Poll

"Canadians have spoken" on the subject of hydrogen-powered vehicles, with 77 per cent believing that the hydrogen fuel cell is the future. That's according to a report commissioned by Hyundai's Canadian subsidiary, research company Ipsos Reid and carbon-management company Offsetters.

Hyundai and Japanese rival Toyota are the first two automakers to offer — albeit in hyper-limited numbers — vehicles powered by hydrogen fuel cells. The consumer-insight survey revealed most Canadians would like to drive a vehicle not powered by gasoline, but they aren't keen to turn to traditional battery electrics (BEVs), with 71 per cent of those surveyed indicating that "constantly having to charge a BEV is a pain."

A hydrogen fuelling station. ISTOCK

LUXURY MARKET

Electric Aston Martin Rapide confirmed

An all-electric version of the Aston Martin Rapide four-door luxury sports car will be on the market in about two years, company CEO Andy Palmer has confirmed. Boasting 800 horsepower, a 320-kilometre range and all-wheel-drive, the electric Rapide will likely command a premium over the current gasoline-powered Rapide, pictured, that starts at more than $200,000 US.

"What Tesla clearly shows you is we haven't hit the ceiling in terms of price.

Aston Martin CEO Andy Palmer. He says an electric Aston could fill a niche that Tesla, as a relatively new brand, cannot cover.

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FEATURING

NO CHARGE INTUITIVE ALL WHEEL DRIVE* ON SELECT CUV MODELS

OR

NO CHARGE WINTER TIRE PACKAGE**

WINTER TIRES, FLOOR MATS AND SAFETY KIT
ON SELECT PASSENGER CARS

SL AWD Premium model shown▲

2016 NISSAN ROGUE

AVAILABLE FEATURES INCLUDE: • AROUND VIEW MONITOR WITH 360° BIRDS'EYE VIEW‡
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MONTHLY LEASE FROM $281 WITH $0 DOWN AT 1.99% APR FOR 60 MONTHS

THAT'S LIKE PAYING ONLY $65≈ WEEKLY ON ROGUE S FWD

OR

NO CHARGE INTUITIVE AWD ON OTHER ROGUE MODELS

1.8 SL model shown▲

2015 NISSAN SENTRA

TOP SAFETY AND TOP QUALITY ONLY IN 2015 NISSAN SENTRA

2015 IIHS TOP SAFETY PICK

STARTING FROM $17,229* – CASH DISCOUNT $5,031† = TOTAL $12,198 ON SENTRA 1.8 S M6

PLUS

NO CHARGE WINTER TIRE PACKAGE

THE "HIGHEST RANKED COMPACT CAR IN INITIAL QUALITY" IN THE U.S.

Platinum model shown▲

2015 NISSAN PATHFINDER

AVAILABLE FEATURES INCLUDE: • TRI-ZONE ENTERTAINMENT
• CLASS-EXCLUSIVE AROUND VIEW® MONITOR^

2015 IIHS TOP SAFETY PICK

GET UP TO $5,250+ CASH DISCOUNTS ON SELECT PATHFINDER MODELS INCLUDES INTUITUVE NO CHARGE AWD CREDIT

OR

FINANCE AT 0%† APR FOR UP TO 72 MONTHS ON PATHFINDER S

ALREADY DRIVING A NISSAN? OUR LOYALTY PROGRAM HAS GREAT OFFERS.

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Offers available from October 1 – November 2, 2015. "Payments cannot be made on a weekly basis, for advertising purposes only. *$2,180//$2,000//$2,500 no-charge all-wheel drive upgrade is available on new 2015 Juke (excluding SV FWD (N5RT55 AA00)// 2016 Rogue (excluding S FWD (Y6RG16 AA00) and SV Special Edition FWD (Y6SG16 AA00)) // 2015 Pathfinder (excluding S 4x2 (5XRG15 AA00) models purchased or financed with NCF at standard rates and delivered between October 1, 2015 and November 2, 2015. Offer consists of a discount that can only be used at the time of initial purchase/finance and applied towards: (i) the purchase of an all-wheel drive system from an authorized Nissan dealer; and/or (ii) the purchase price of the vehicle. **350//$400//$500 no-charge winter tire package offer is available on new 2015 Micra // 2015 & 2016 Versa Note // 2015 Sentra models purchased, leased or financed and delivered between October 1, 2015 and November 2, 2015. Offer consists of a discount that can only be used at the time of initial purchase/lease/finance and applied towards: (i) the purchase of a winter tire package (includes: all-season floor mats, emergency road kit, and 4 specified winter tires -- rims, tire installation and balancing not included) from an authorized Nissan dealer; and/or (ii) the purchase price of the vehicle. The discounts will be deducted from the negotiated price before taxes and can be combined with special lease and finance rates offered through Nissan Canada Finance. Any unused portion of a discount will not be refunded and may not be banked for future use. Offers are subject to change or cancellation without notice. Conditions apply. See your participating Nissan dealer or visit choosenissan.ca for details. •$12,198 selling price includes MSRP and fees for a new 2015 Sentra 1.8 S M6 (C4LG55 AA00). $5,031 NCI non-stackable cash discount, which includes $350 dealer participation included in advertised amount. †Cash discount is $5,250/$2,500 available on 2015 Pathfinder S 4X4 (5XBG15 AA00). $5,250 comprised of 'No Charge AWD' credit of $2,500/$2,450 NCF standard rate cash, $300 dealer participation. Only applicable with finance through Nissan Canada Finance at standard rates. ≈Representative monthly lease offer based on a new 2016 Rogue S FWD CVT (Y6RG16 AA00). 1.99% lease APR for a 60 month term equals monthly payments of $281 with $0 down payment, and $0 security deposit. First monthly payment, down payment and $0 security deposit are due at lease inception. Payments include freight and fees. Lease based on a maximum of 20,000 km/year with excess charged at $0.10/km. Total lease obligation is $16,848. 2016 Rogue S FWD CVT does not qualify for 'No Charge AWD credit'. This offer cannot be combined with any other offer. Conditions apply. †Representative finance offer based on any new 2015 Pathfinder S 4X4 (5XBG15 AA00). Selling price is $32,589 financed at 0% APR equals monthly payments of $453 monthly for a 72 month term. $0 down payment required. Cost of borrowing is $0 for a total obligation of $32,598. 2015 Pathfinder S 4X4 (5XBG15 AA00) is not applicable for the no charge AWD credit. This offer cannot be combined with any other offer. Conditions apply. ▲Models shown $37,139/$26,129/$48,839 Selling price for a new 2016 Rogue SL AWD Premium (Y6DG16 BK00)/ 2015 Sentra 1.8 SL (C4TG15 AA00)/2015 Pathfinder Platinum (5XEG15 AA00). See your dealer or visit Nissan.ca/Loyalty. *•†≈▲Freight and PDE charges ($1,760/$1,600/$1,760) air-conditioning levy ($100) where applicable, applicable fees (all which may vary by region), manufacturer's rebate and dealer participation where applicable are included. License, registration, insurance and applicable taxes are extra. Lease offers are available on approved credit through Nissan Canada Finance for a limited time, may change without notice and cannot be combined with any other offers except stackable trading dollars. Vehicles and accessories are for illustration purposes only. ALG is the industry benchmark for residual values and depreciation data, www.alg.com For more information see IIHS.org. °Forward Collision Warning is intended to warn you before a collision occurs; it cannot prevent a collision. Speed and other limitations apply. See Owner's Manual for details. ^Ward's Large Cross/Utility Market Segmentation. MY15 Pathfinder and Pathfinder Hybrid vs. 2014 competitors. ‡Around View Monitor cannot completely eliminate blind spots and may not detect every object. Always check surroundings before moving vehicle. Virtual composite 360 view. The Nissan Sentra received the lowest number of problems per 100 vehicles among compact cars in the proprietary J.D. Power 2015 Initial Quality Study℠. Study based on responses from 84,367 new-vehicle owners, measuring 244 models and measures opinions after 90 days of ownership. Proprietary study results are based on experiences and perceptions of owners surveyed in February-May 2015. Your experiences may vary. Visit jdpower.com. See your participating Nissan retailer for complete details. ©2015 Nissan Canada Inc. and Nissan Canada Financial Services Inc. a division of Nissan Canada Inc.

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Drivers, honk if you like honking

AUTOPILOT

Time to reclaim the horn for more genteel, useful purposes

Mike Goetz
For Metro Canada

Last week when a car abruptly turned into my lane I laid on the horn so hard and so fast I almost sprained my wrist.

But it worked. He swung back into his lane. No sheet metal was harmed. My sphincter muscles relaxed.

And the best thing? I didn't feel guilty about using the horn. Usually I do.

Even when I'm completely justified for honking in a non-emergency situation — like enlightening an absentminded driver in front of me that the traffic light is no longer red but green — it can sometimes feel like the honking is too strong, like I'm super mad, when I'm just really just trying being helpful, and only medium mad.

Not 100 per cent sure, but it seems we motorists have been gradually skewing horn use towards its confrontational side. Get out my way! You bleeding idiot! That kind of thing.

As such, it feels like that side of honking has become the de facto usage for it, and makes some people not reach for it, in circumstances when honking could actually contribute to traffic flow, safety and civility.

Maybe we need to re-claim the horn for the more genteel and useful purposes it can also provide. In that light, I did some research into the matter and can offer this (incomplete list) of Acceptable and Non-Acceptable situations for using your horn, or honking. But remember, every situation is ultimately unique, so don't use this list as the last word on the matter. Personal judgment is always necessary in honking.

It seems we motorists have been gradually skewing horn use towards its confrontational side.

• **Acceptable** — If you see someone holding up a sign that reads: "Honk if you like lasagna."

• **Unacceptable** — If you see someone holding up a sign that reads: "Honk if you like cholera."

• **Acceptable** — To warn a pedestrian walking in your direction on a narrow road shoulder that you are approaching them.

• **Unacceptable** — To warn a pedestrian walking on the sidewalk that you intend to start driving on their section of the sidewalk. Vehicles should not drive on the sidewalk.

• **Acceptable** — To get a driver's attention, to tell them their taillights are burned out.

• **Unacceptable** — To get a driver's attention, to tell them they are proof that evolution CAN go in reverse.

• **Acceptable** — To alert a driver that he or she is starting to drift out of their lane.

• **Unacceptable** — Continuously laying on the horn on the highway, as a way of letting other motorists know you are very sleepy, and are probably going to be drifting into their lane at some point.

SUB-COMPACT/PICKUP TRUCK CROSS

Suzuki to Deck the halls at Tokyo

One of Suzuki's four planned concept car reveals at this year's Tokyo Motor Show is the intriguingly entitled Mighty Deck. Described as a new take on the minicar that offers similarly new kinds of enjoyment and utility, the Mighty Deck is a cross between a sub-compact inner-city car and a pickup truck.

With moulded wrap-around bumpers, stone chip protection, a raised driving position and a canvas folding roof, the car should be just as much fun at or on the beach as it is essential in a supermarket carpark.

The prototype is aimed at showing fans where Suzuki, which started making cars in 1920, is taking its brand as it moves into its second century in business.

The 44th Tokyo Motor Show runs from Oct. 30 to Nov. 8.

AFP

The Mighty Deck concept. SUZUKI

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AT NO EXTRA CHARGE (UP TO $2,300 MSRP VALUE ON EDGE)

WINTER TIRES | RIMS | SENSORS

ON MOST NEW CARs, CUVs AND SUVs^

Titanium model shown

Titanium model shown

2015 FOCUS SE AUTO

PURCHASE FINANCE FOR

$122 @ 0%† APR FOR 84 MONTHS WITH $0 DOWN

BI-WEEKLY

OR OWN FOR $22,114≠ (Sales tax excluded.)

AVAILABLE WINTER-READY FEATURES INCLUDE:

• HEATED SIDE MIRRORS • REMOTE START SYSTEM
• HEATED FRONT SEATS

2016 FUSION SE FWD

PURCHASE FINANCE FOR

$146 @ 0%† APR FOR 84 MONTHS WITH $0 DOWN

BI-WEEKLY

OR OWN FOR $26,499≠ (Sales tax excluded.)

AVAILABLE WINTER-READY FEATURES INCLUDE:

• HEATED SIDE MIRRORS • HEATED LEATHER-WRAPPED STEERING WHEEL • REMOTE START SYSTEM • HEATED FRONT SEATS

Titanium model shown

2016 ESCAPE SE FWD

LEASE FOR ONLY

$136 @ 1.99%†† LAPR FOR 60 MONTHS

BI-WEEKLY

WITH $1,195 DOWN

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2015 ESCAPE

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$3,250‡

IN MANUFACTURER REBATES

Our advertised prices include Freight, Air Tax, and PPSA (if financed or leased). Add dealer administration and registration fees of up to $799, fuel fill charge of up to $120 and applicable taxes, then drive away.

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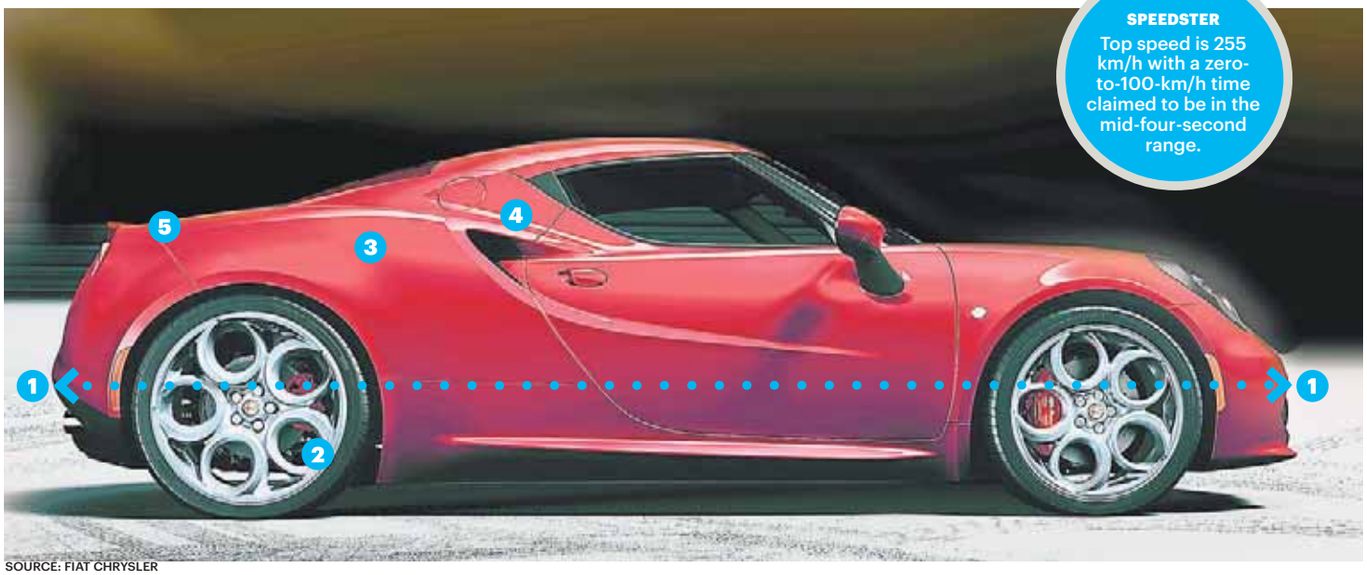
Vehicle(s) may be shown with optional equipment. Dealer may sell or lease for less. Limited time offers. Offers only valid at participating dealers. Retail offers may be cancelled or changed at any time without notice. See your Ford Dealer for complete details or call the Ford Customer Relationship Centre at 1-800-565-3673. For factory orders, a customer may either take advantage of eligible rainchecked Ford retail customer promotional incentives/offers available at the time of vehicle factory order or time of vehicle delivery, but not both or combinations thereof. Retail offers not combinable with any CPA/GPC or Daily Rental incentives, the Commercial Fleet Program or the Commercial Unit Program or the Commercial Fleet Incentive Program (CFP). †Receive a winter safety package which includes: four (4) winter tires, four (4) steel wheels, and four (4) tire pressure monitoring sensors when you purchase or lease an eligible new 2015 Ford Focus, Escape, C-MAX or Fusion, or 2016 Escape, Fusion or Edge (excluding Focus ST, Focus Electric, Fusion Hybrid, Fusion Energi and Fusion Titanium AWD) from your participating Ford Dealer between October 1, 2015 and November 30, 2015. Ford may cancel or change this offer without notice. Dealer order or trade may be required. Dealer may sell for less or lease for less. Winter tires are meant to be operated during winter conditions and may require a higher cold inflation pressure than all-season tires. Consult your Ford of Canada Dealer for details including applicable warranty coverage. Some conditions apply. See Dealer for details. ^Until November 30, 2015 receive 0% APR purchase financing on new 2015 Focus SE Auto/2015 Focus Titanium/2016 Fusion SE FWD/2016 Fusion Titanium AWD models for up to 84 months, to qualified retail customers, on approved credit (OAC) from Ford Credit. Not all buyers will qualify for the lowest interest rate. 2015 Focus SE Auto/2015 Focus Titanium/2016 Fusion SE FWD/2016 Fusion Titanium AWD for $22,114/ $27,914/$26,499/$35,399. With $0 down payment purchase financed at 0% APR for 84 months, monthly payment is $264/$333/$316/$422 (the sum of twelve (12) monthly payments divided by 26 periods gives payee a bi-weekly payment of $ for $122/$154/$146/$195), interest cost of borrowing is $0 or APR of 0%, and total to be repaid is $22,204/$28,028/$26,572/$35,490 Taxes payable on full amount of purchase price after Manufacturer Rebates have been deducted. Down payment may be required based on approved credit from Ford Credit. All purchase finance offers include freight and air tax ($1665 for Focus and $1790 for Fusion and PPSA charges but exclude administration and registration fees of up to $799, fuel fill charge of up to $120 and all applicable taxes. All prices are based on Manufacturer's Suggested Retail Price. **Until November 30, 2015 lease a new 2016 Ford Escape SE/Escape Titanium for up to 60 months, and get 1.99% APR on approved credit (OAC) from Ford Credit. Not all buyers will qualify for the lowest APR payment. Lease a 2016 Ford Escape/Escape Titanium with a value of $25,992/$36,389 after $1,195/$0 down payment or equivalent trade in at 1.99% APR for up 60 months with an optional buyout of $10,094/$13,828, monthly payment is $295/$418 (the sum of twelve (12) monthly payments divided by 26 periods gives payee a bi-weekly payment of $136/$193), total lease obligation is $18,875/$25,090, interest cost of leasing is $1,755/$2,459 or 1.99% APR. Taxes payable on full amount of purchase price after Manufacturer Rebates have been deducted. Offers include freight, air tax, and PPSA but exclude administration and registration fees of up to $120 and all applicable taxes. Additional payments required for optional features, license, and insurance. All prices are based on Manufacturer's Suggested Retail Price. Some conditions and mileage restriction of 80,000km for 60 months (16,000km per year) applies. Excess kilometrage charges are 12¢per km, plus applicable taxes. Excess kilometrage charges subject to change, see your local dealer for details. ‡Purchase a new 2015 Focus SE Auto/2015 Focus Titanium/2016 Fusion SE FWD/2016 Fusion Titanium AWD for $22,114/ $27,914/$26,499/$35,399 (after Manufacturer Rebates of $0 deducted). Taxes payable on full amount of purchase price after Manufacturer Rebates have been deducted. Offers include freight and air tax charges but exclude administration and registration fees of up to $799, fuel fill charge of up to $120 and all applicable taxes. All prices are based on Manufacturer's Suggested Retail Price. ^Until November 30, 2015, receive $3,250 in Manufacturer Rebate (delivery allowances) with the purchase or lease of a new 2015 Escape model. Delivery allowances are not combinable with any fleet consumer incentives. ©2015 Sirius Canada Inc. "SiriusXM", the SiriusXM logo, channel names and logos are trademarks of SiriusXM Radio Inc., and are used under licence. ©2015 Ford Motor Company of Canada, Limited. All rights reserved.

Meet the 2015 Alfa Romeo 4C

It's an exercise is physics, really. Low mass is easier to move. Alfa Romeo returned to the North American market with this car, sold in limited numbers through Maserati dealerships and some select Fiat stores. The key to the 4C is reduced weight through size and material use. At about 300 kilograms less than a Mazda Miata and the same overall length, it doesn't need a big engine to be quick.

JEFF MELNYCHUK WHEELBASE MEDIA



SOURCE: FIAT CHRYSLER

THE RUNDOWN

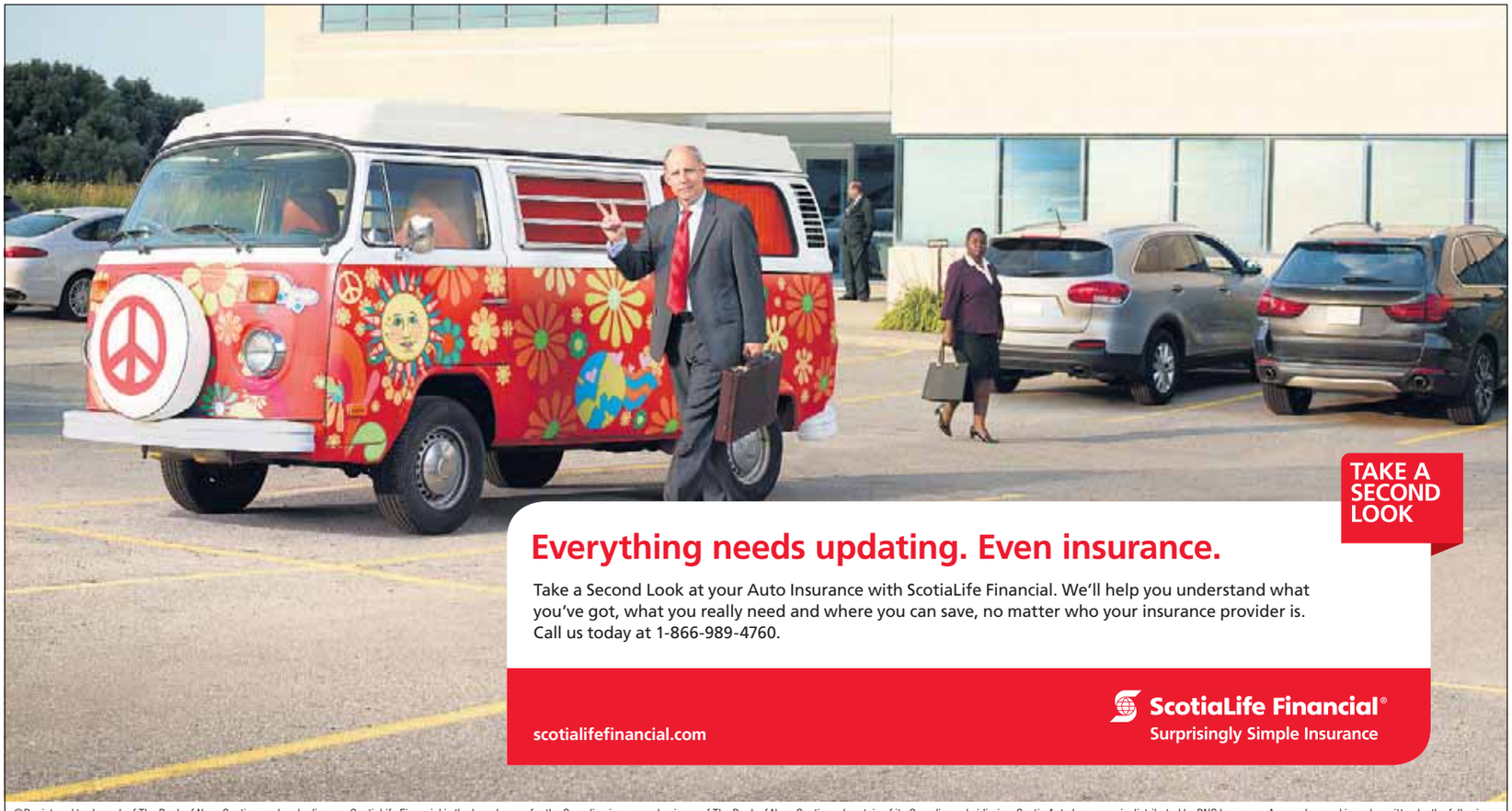
1 Dimensions
It's only about 4.1 metres long, which is about the same as the Mazda Miata, but the 4C is nearly 20 centimetres wider.

2 Wheels
Seventeen-inch front and 18-inch rear wheels are standard; 18/19 are optional.

3 Engine
The 4C has a mid-engine layout and rear-wheel drive. The turbo 1.75-litre four-cylinder engine makes 237 horsepower and 258 pound-feet of torque.

4 Lighter, stronger
Body composite is claimed to be both lighter and stronger than steel and allows complex shapes like this.

5 Storage
Here's a small trunk behind the engine.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UP TO **$4,000** TOTAL CASH CREDIT[3] (INCLUDES $1,000 OWNER CASH)

OR **0%** PURCHASE FINANCING FOR **84** MONTHS[1] ON LS 1SA

+ **$2,000** IN TOTAL FINANCE CASH[2] (INCLUDES $1,000 OWNER CASH)

2015 TRAX

UP TO **$3,500** TOTAL CASH CREDIT[11] (INCLUDES $500 OWNER CASH)

OR **0%** PURCHASE FINANCING FOR **84** MONTHS[1] ON LS MANUAL

+ **$2,000** IN TOTAL FINANCE CASH[10] (INCLUDES $500 OWNER CASH)

2015 MALIBU

UP TO **$7,195** TOTAL CASH CREDIT[5] (INCLUDES $500 OWNER CASH)

OR **0%** PURCHASE FINANCING FOR **84** MONTHS[1] ON 3LT

+ **$2,500** IN TOTAL FINANCE CASH[4] (INCLUDES $500 OWNER CASH)

2015 EQUINOX

UP TO **$4,950** TOTAL CASH CREDIT[13] (INCLUDES $750 OWNER CASH)

OR **0%** PURCHASE FINANCING FOR **84** MONTHS[1] ON LS AWD

+ **$1,750** IN TOTAL FINANCE CASH[12] (INCLUDES $750 OWNER CASH)

2015 IMPALA

UP TO **$4,750** TOTAL CASH CREDIT[7] (INCLUDES $750 OWNER CASH)

OR **0%** PURCHASE FINANCING FOR **84** MONTHS[1] ON LS 1LZ

+ **$750** IN TOTAL FINANCE CASH[6] (INCLUDES $750 OWNER CASH)

2015 TRAVERSE

UP TO **$4,750** TOTAL CASH CREDIT[15] (INCLUDES $750 OWNER CASH)

OR **0%** PURCHASE FINANCING FOR **84** MONTHS[1] ON LS FWD

+ **$750** IN TOTAL FINANCE CASH[14] (INCLUDES $750 OWNER CASH)

2015 CAMARO

UP TO **$5,250** TOTAL CASH CREDIT[9] (INCLUDES $750 OWNER CASH)

OR **0%** PURCHASE FINANCING FOR **84** MONTHS[1] ON LS

+ **$1,750** IN TOTAL FINANCE CASH[8] (INCLUDES $750 OWNER CASH)

2015 SILVERADO 1500

UP TO **$10,380** TOTAL CASH CREDIT[17] (INCLUDES $1,000 OWNER CASH, AND $1,200 PACKAGE DISCOUNT)

OR **0%** PURCHASE FINANCING FOR **84** MONTHS[1] ON DOUBLE/CREW 2WD WT

+ **$5,000** IN TOTAL FINANCE CASH[16] (INCLUDES $1,000 OWNER CASH)

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- **2** YEARS/40,000 KM COMPLIMENTARY OIL CHANGES**
- **5** YEARS/160,000 KM POWERTRAIN WARRANTY▲
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Gibbons acknowledges first post-season 'intense'

GAME 5 PREVIEW

Jays manager making hard pitching calls to get job done

Down 2-0 in the American League Division Series, Blue Jays manager John Gibbons did not look his normal relaxed self in the visiting manager's office at Globe Life Park.

A persistent hacking chest cold was no doubt responsible for the grey look. But Toronto's predicament wasn't helping. One more slip-up and the Jays' dream season was over.

"It has happened fast," Gibbons acknowledged. "I think a week ago today we were sitting down in Tampa taking the Sports Illustrated (cover) picture."

Two wins later, the series with Texas is even and Toronto can dispatch the Rangers on Wednesday from the comfort of its home stadium.

Gibbons has made some hard decisions along the way in the pressure-filled playoff cauldron where three losses can quickly trump the 93 wins in the regular season.

Prior to Game 3, he was asked whether his first foray into the post-season had proved more challenging than expected.

"I don't know if it's harder than you imagine. It's definitely more intense. I don't know. I can't really answer that yet. I've loved every minute of it but there's definitely a different feel in these games than your normal games," he said.

"But it's still baseball. You still have to execute, you still have to do your thing." In the lead-up to the post-season, Gibbons looked after his players.

He let them celebrate the franchise's long-awaited return to the playoffs. He gave them time off to recover. He handed the ball to veteran LaTroy Hawkins in the game that clinched the AL East title. And in another sign of respect, he gave Mark Buehrle a bonus start in a bid to reach 200 innings pitched for the 15th straight season.

With the season on the line Monday, Gibbons played hardball. Despite being up 7-1, he pulled R.A. Dickey after he yielded a single with two outs in the fifth, denying the 40-year-old knuckleballer a win in his first-ever post-season start.

He inserted David Price, effectively using up the Game 1 starter in a relief role.

Both players relished the chance to go back to Toronto with the series still alive but neither seemed too chuffed about how they got there.

With Brett Cecil injured and fellow left-hander Aaron Loup unavailable because of a family matter, Gibbons had few southpaw options against a Texas batting order bristling with five lefties. When he was taken out, Dickey was facing the meat of the Rangers order with left-hander Shin-Soo Choo and Adrian Beltre, who had a combined four hits in the game, with lefties Prince Fielder and Mitch Moreland to follow with Josh Hamilton on deck.

"What we didn't want to happen is a couple guys on base," said Gibbons. "Choo comes up. And R.A. has been known to give up the fly balls, launch it. Maybe if that should happen now they're right back in the game." THE CANADIAN PRESS

STARTER

The Blue Jays are putting their faith in Marcus Stroman with their season on the line against the Texas Rangers in Game 5 of the American League Division Series.

The 24-year-old who missed the majority of the season with a torn ACL in his left knee is set to face playoff veteran Cole Hamels. THE CANADIAN PRESS

John Gibbons speaks at a news conference in Toronto ahead of the crunch Game 5 in the ALDS. NATHAN DENETTE/THE CANADIAN PRESS

NLDS

Playoff history as Cubs oust Cardinals

TUESDAY in Chicago

6	4
CUBS	CARDINALS

The Chicago Cubs clinched a post-season series at Wrigley Field for the first time ever, getting home runs from Kyle Schwarber, Anthony Rizzo and Javier Baez in beating the St. Louis Cardinals 6-4 Tuesday to win the National League Division Series in four games.

A day after hitting a post-season-record six homers, the Cubs hammered their way into the NL Championship Series by taking the best-of-five set before a rollicking crowd. Manager Joe Maddon's bunch of wild-card Cubs will face the winner of the Los Angeles Dodgers-New York Mets matchup.

The Cubs last reached the NLCS in 2003, when they lost in seven games to the Marlins. Chicago dropped those final two at home, including the infamous Bartman defeat in Game 6. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Captain looks refreshed

PROTEAU TYPE
Adam Proteau

Early indications are Dion Phaneuf is rebuilding his value. PAUL SANCYA/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

After their first three games of the 2015-16 regular season, the Maple Leafs are still seeking their first victory. But most educated Toronto fans understand the process of heavy reconstruction for the franchise — short-and-long-term — means disappointment and defeats are unavoidable.

You need a different set of metrics when you're examining any rebuilding team, including this year's Leafs. For instance, look at the play of cornerstone defenceman Dion Phaneuf so far this season, and you'll see evidence to argue the organization is "winning" when it comes to refurbishing an asset — a tradable asset — whose value has plummeted.

Granted, the sample size is small, but after amassing just 60 points in 150 games for the blue and white in the past two seasons, Phaneuf has three points in as many games this year. More importantly, he finished Saturday's tilt against the Senators with an impressive 65 percent possession mark.

New Toronto coach Mike Babcock is managing Phaneuf's ice time more conservatively, and the 30-year-old blueliner has looked like he's got something to prove.

He does, and if Babcock and Leafs management can show potential trade partners Phaneuf is a better player than he's been in recent years — the captain will benefit via a deal to a true Stanley Cup contender, and Toronto will benefit with an improved return when they choose to move him.

This isn't to suggest Babcock can elevate Phaneuf to the point people tout him as a Norris Trophy frontrunner. He isn't a true No. 1, but has enough left in the tank — and there's more demand for help on defense than there is supply around the NHL — to make him attractive to at least a handful of teams.

The better Phaneuf plays, the less of his salary the Leafs have to assume in any trade.

However, the goal isn't to make him attractive enough simply to be moevable — Toronto could've done so last year had they assumed a healthy portion of his contract (which has another four years to go after this season at a $7 million salary cap hit) — but to maximize the return on the investment they've made.

The better Phaneuf plays, the less of his salary the Leafs have to assume in any trade. Ideally, of course, they don't want to assume any of it, and instead receive prospects to help speed their rebuild.

In the absence of dozens of wins in the standings this year, those are the types of victories that are crucial for the Leafs to claim.

IN BRIEF

Women's nationals go young in net

Canada will be green in goal at the Four Nations Cup women's hockey tournament.

Hockey Canada has announced the country's 22-player roster for the tournament Nov. 4-8 in Sundsvall, Sweden.

Canadian goaltenders Emerance Maschmeyer of Bruderheim, Alta., and Erica Howe of Orleans, Ont., have fewer than five career starts for the national team between them.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

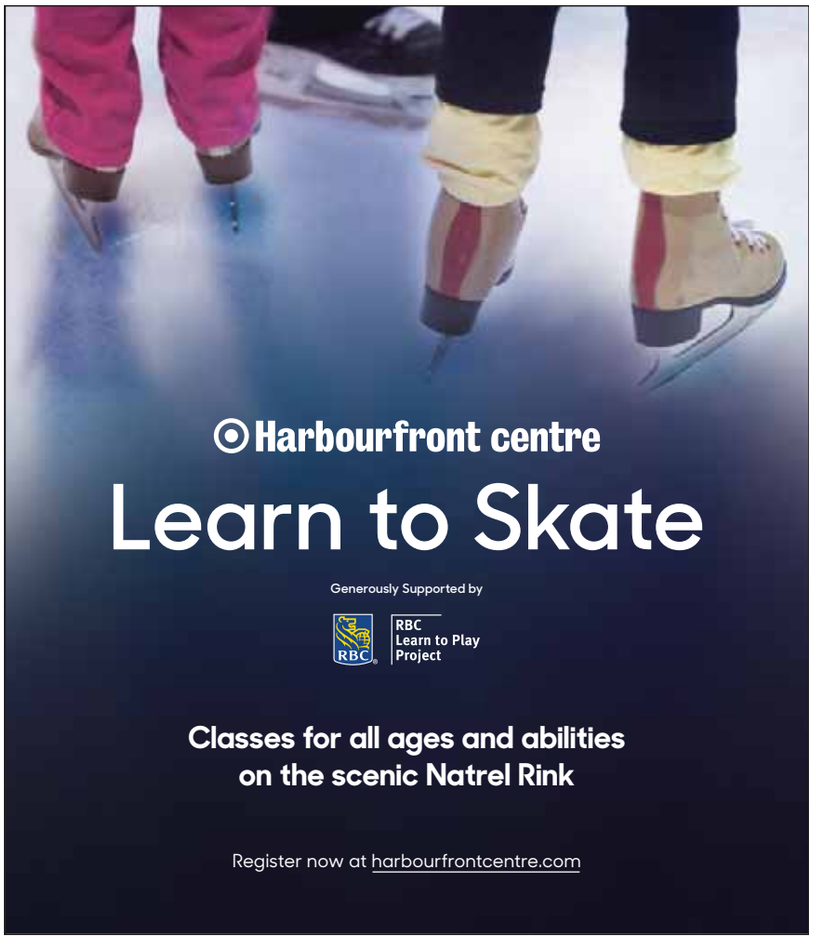
Ovechkin out for Caps

Alex Ovechkin sat out the Washington Capitals' game Tuesday night against San Jose because of personal reasons.

The Capitals sent out a note on Twitter about 35 minutes before the game saying Ovechkin would not play.

They had confirmed earlier in the day that the left wing did not take part in the team's morning skate.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS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NHL

Leafs' progress coming slowly

New coach Mike Babcock spent training camp teaching players his system. FRANK GUNN/THE CANADIAN PRESS

During training camp, Mike Babcock re-taught and reminded his Detroit Red Wings of certain things. As coach of the Toronto Maple Leafs, Babcock has extended that process to the regular season.

The Leafs are 0-2-1 and making some progress, but there's plenty of work left to do as Babcock gets used to his players and vice versa. The biggest benefit is almost a week between games and time to hash that out.

"It's a lot better than what it was, that's for sure," Nazem Kadri said of the level of understanding between coach and players.

"But I think there's definitely still some feeling-out to go on, and there's going to be some growing pains. But at the same time we know what's expected and what our identity's got to be."

Babcock said Tuesday that the Leafs have a long way to go but are trying. He kept his players off the ice because he didn't want them to practise four days in a row before returning to game action Friday at the Columbus Blue Jackets. But he didn't want them to have two consecutive days off, either.

That's because the results and the process aren't quite there yet.

"We lost three games and now we've got time to see and figure it out what's the problem," said Leo Komarov, at least temporarily the right-winger on the top line with James van Riemsdyk and Tyler Bozak.

Kadri said the issues at this point are system-driven. The Leafs are still in the infancy of the Babcock system, and even after several weeks of training camp there's another step to take.

A practice week couldn't have come at a better time.

"Hopefully by the end of this week you're thinking less and just reacting more and just playing more," van Riemsdyk said.

"Obviously everyone knows at this point the things that are expected of us, but just to do them naturally now, we'll get this week to really kind of hammer all that home and I think that'll be a good thing for us." THE CANADIAN PRESS

IN BRIEF

Canada fails to qualify for men's Olympic soccer

Marc Pelosi and Jerome Kiesewetter scored as the United States shut out Canada's under-23 soccer team 2-0 on Tuesday night in a CONCACAF Olympic qualifying tournament.

The loss eliminates Canada's chances of qualifying for the 2016 Rio Olympic Games. The U.S. will face Colombia in a home-and-away series in March with the winner moving onto Rio.

The U.S. got on the board in the 69th minute after a corner kick went off a pair of players in front of the net before reaching Pelosi just outside the box. His shot was deflected off Canada's Jeremy Gagnon-Lapare and into the net.

Kiesewetter gave the U.S. a two-goal lead in the 84th minute when he was awarded a penalty shot after being taken down in the box by Canadian goalkeeper Maxime Crepeau. Kiesewetter put his shot into the right-hand corner of the net.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

New Raptor shows worth

NBA

Coach likes confidence of Pickering-bred point guard

Cory Joseph tried his absolute best Tuesday afternoon, but he couldn't hold a straight face.

Monday night marked the Raptors debut of the Pickering-bred point guard — a pre-season win over the Minnesota Timberwolves at the Air Canada Centre.

Asked to revisit what he felt, a familiar, if not grumpy face popped into his head.

"I mentioned it (Monday) night. You can't ask me again," he said, his demeanour giving way to laughter. "That's my Pop impersonation."

Joseph's impersonation of Gregg Popovich, the San Antonio Spurs' long-tenured and excessively successful coach, isn't the intangible that the Raptors were interested in when they signed him to a four-year deal over the summer.

Through four exhibition games, Joseph is settling in as the team's backup point man and showing what he learned playing under Popovich the last four years.

Cory Joseph gets past Minnesota's Karl-Anthony Towns Monday. CHRIS YOUNG/THE CANADIAN PRESS

> **You need that type of leadership from your point guard.**
> Dwane Casey

He's brought a steady, calming presence to the Raptors in relief of Lowry and averaged 10.8 points and 2.5 assists in 21 minutes in the pre-season.

He had 14 points and four assists against Minnesota on Monday and played a key part in closing out the Lakers in a win out west last week.

"(It's a challenge to) understand what's going on and to be able to verbalize it, to be able to tell everyone else what to do and have the confidence to do it and he's done that," Raptors coach Dwane Casey said. "You need that type of leadership from your point guard." TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

MLS

Playoffs in hands of TFC

The magic number is 1 for Toronto FC. The Reds will clinch the franchise's first playoff berth with a tie or a win against Eastern Conference leaders New York Red Bulls at BMO Field on Wednesday night.

It's the first time this season securing a spot in the post-season is firmly in Toronto's hand.

But the home side won't be the only squad with something at stake. Should the Red Bulls earn a win or a tie, the visitors will clinch first place in the Eastern Conference for the third time in club history.

Toronto has a second chance to clinch this week — if Orlando City SC drops any points in their game against New York City FC on Friday night — and still has two regular-season games to earn that playoff-securing point.

Toronto's big three — Michael Bradley, Jozy Altidore and Sebastian Giovinco — are all coming back from international duty with their respective national teams. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

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RECIPE Pumpkin Pasta with Ricotta and Sage

PHOTO: MAYA VISNYEI

Ceri Marsh & Laura Keogh
For Metro Canada

Don't just save pumpkin for pies. It's great in a sauce for pasta, too.

Ready in
Prep time: 20 minutes
Serves 4

Ingredients
- 500 g pasta
- 1 Tbsp olive oil
- 2 shallots, diced
- 2 cloves garlic, minced
- 1 Tbsp fresh chopped sage, plus more for garnish
- 1/4 cup ricotta
- 1 cup pumpkin purée
- 1 cup chicken broth
- fresh grated nutmeg to taste
- Salt to taste
- 1/4 cup water
- 1/2 cup Parmesan cheese, plus more for garnish

Directions
1. Cook the pasta according to package directions. Once the pasta has reached al dente, reserve 1/4 cup of the cooking water and drain the rest.
2. While your pasta is cooking, heat olive oil in a large skillet over medium heat. Add the shallots, garlic and sage and cook until tender, about 5 to 7 minutes. Add the ricotta, pumpkin purée, chicken broth, nutmeg and a pinch of salt; stir until combined.
3. Stir in the pasta and coat with the sauce. Add reserved pasta water to thin the sauce to desired consistency. Mix in the Parmesan cheese.
4. Serve the pasta with a sprinkling of Parmesan cheese and chopped sage.

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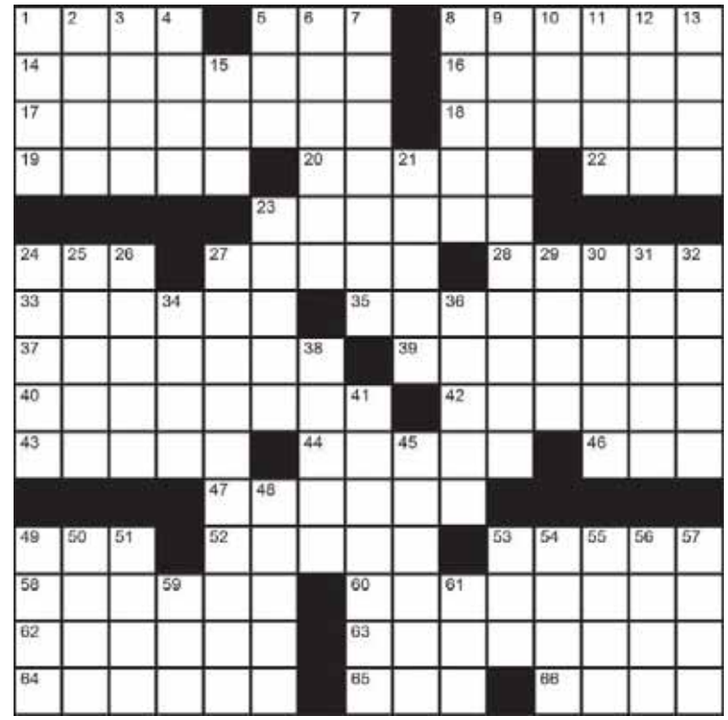
CROSSWORD Canada Across and Down

BY KELLY ANN BUCHANAN



ACROSS
1. Tread
5. Like Beethoven's 'Pastoral' symphony, __ Major
8. Go round and round
14. Gordon Lightfoot's "__ Highway"
16. Paradise of Arthurian legend
17. Where Grizzlies catch salmon
18. President Reagan
19. Figs' friends
20. Southern Alberta town
22. Where the Capitals play hockey, briefly
23. Tune
24. Dowel
27. Trait carriers
28. Amass
33. Urge on
35. Ship like the type on the Canadian dime
37. Penitent people
39. Certain car company
40. Product stored/transported by Canadian company Gibson Energy: 2 wds.
42. Horse's proud strut
43. Rock band, with Van
44. Ecological stages
46. "Is that so?" remarks
47. Volcano opening
49. Camel hair garment
52. Handles on swords
53. "_ _ Told You Lately" by Van Morrison
58. __ tasks (Chores of drudgery)
60. Kitchen drawer items
62. Pink-eraser-topped implement
63. Autumn weather occurrence: 2 wds.
64. Directs
65. U2 producer Brian
66. Dick Tracy's beloved

DOWN
1. Gulf War missile
2. Spanish appetizer
3. Once
4. Rocker Mr. Wentz
5. Pique
6. Tidy up
7. Shes
8. Showed concern
9. "Hello Honey" up-and-coming band from London, Ontario: 2 wds.
10. Escaped
11. Purr-er's paw part
12. The Kinks hit
13. Calls off
15. Belonging to Paris' li'l country
21. Power tools brand
23. Movies... First 'M' of MGM
24. Georgia's state fruit
25. Surplus
26. Tomb's thief
27. TD Canada Trust's comfy symbol: 2 wds.
29. Charlie and __ (Parents of actress Geraldine Chaplin)
30. "Well... yes __ __." (Indecisive response)
31. Contact/get through
32. Becomes moistureless
34. Wave: French
36. Overly active
38. Carpeting choice
41. Sandwich ingredient
45. Lean against: 2 wds.
48. Streamlets
49. __ up (Escalates)
50. Salad bar item grasped with small tongs
51. Queen Elizabeth's only daughter
53. 100, for short
54. Legal gig, __. DA
55. Big name in short videos
56. Old music high notes
57. Web connectors, commonly
59. Rink surface
61. Jeff Lynne's gr.

IT'S ALL IN THE STARS by Sally Brompton

Aries March 21 - April 20
According to the planets you have buried your feelings at such a deep level it seems they no longer exist. But they do and you need to let one person know you still love them.

Taurus April 21 - May 21
You could do worse today than let a friend or family member call the shots. The planets indicate that you will gain more by doing less things for yourself. Go ahead, get spoiled.

Gemini May 22 - June 21
You have carried a lot of responsibility on your shoulders of late but over the next two or three days you need to find ways to lessen the load. A burden shared is a burden halved, so get loved ones to help you.

Cancer June 22 - July 23
You won't be as distant emotionally and that's good. It is sometimes difficult for even those closest to you to know what your true feelings are but for a while at least you will be more open and loving.

Leo July 24 - Aug. 23
What is right for you may be wrong for someone else, and what is right for them may be wrong for you. You may not approve of someone's actions but it is not your place to judge.

Virgo Aug. 24 - Sept. 23
Now is not the time to be confrontational, either at home or at work. Others will listen to reason today but they won't listen to anything that sounds like a threat.

Libra Sept. 24 - Oct. 23
At this time of year, when the Sun is in your sign, you tend to push yourself hard, but if you go beyond your limits today you may regret it.

Scorpio Oct. 24 - Nov. 22
You don't have to be on top of things every minute of every day. Yours is a sign that values hard work and leads from the front but the planets indicate you will achieve twice as much as you usually do with only half the effort.

Sagittarius Nov. 23 - Dec. 21
For some strange reason you have got it into your head that you have fallen short of what was expected of you. That's nonsense. Overall you are still streets ahead of your rivals.

Capricorn Dec. 22 - Jan. 20
Do whatever it takes to get along with people you do business with. That does not mean you must do everything they say, but at least treat them as equals — even if they are not.

Aquarius Jan. 21 - Feb. 19
Employers and authority figures will encourage you to make more of your talents. Take center stage, because you will find that being in the spotlight actually feels good.

Pisces Feb. 20 - March 20
Go where your instincts take you and ignore those who say you have got it wrong. Never be afraid to take a few risks. That applies especially to affairs of the heart. Travel for pleasure.

CONCEPTIS SUDOKU by Dave Green

Every row, column and box contains 1-9

			1			5		
		3			6		2	
	9				8			6
8					7	6	1	
	4	2	5					8
2			9				6	
	8		2			9		
		9			3			

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3	7	1	5	2	4	9	6	8
9	2	5	7	8	6	3	1	4
4	8	6	1	3	9	2	5	7
2	4	3	6	1	8	7	9	5
6	1	7	9	5	2	4	8	3
8	5	9	4	7	3	6	2	1
5	9	4	3	6	1	8	7	2
1	6	2	8	4	7	5	3	9
7	3	8	2	9	5	1	4	6

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Soul SX Luxury shown‡
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Maximum $7,000 discount is offered on 2015 Optima Hybrid LX (OP74AF) only. Certain conditions apply. See your dealer for complete details. **Representative Financing Example:** Financing offer available on approved credit (OAC), on a new 2015 Forte Sedan LX MT (F0541F)/2015 Forte Sedan EX MT (F0545F) with a selling price of $17,564/$22,664 is based on monthly payments of $173/$311 for 84/60 months at 0% with a $0 down payment and first monthly payment due at finance inception. Offer also includes $3,000/$4,000 discounts (loan credit). Other taxes, registration, insurance and licensing fees are excluded. [‡]**Cash Purchase Price** for the new 2015 Optima LX AT (OP742F)/2015 Optima Hybrid LX (OP74AF) is $20,964/$24,764 and includes a cash discount of $5,500/$7,000 including $6,000 cash discounts and $1,000 ECO credit. Dealer may sell for less. Other taxes, registration, insurance and licensing fees are excluded. Cash discounts vary by model and trim and are deducted from the negotiated selling price before taxes. [Ω]**Representative Leasing Example:** Lease offer available on approved credit (OAC), on the 2015 Soul 1.6L LX AT (S0752F)/2016 Sorento LX 2.4L FWD (SR75AG) with a selling price of $21,544/ $29,344 is based on monthly payments of $200/$287 for 48 months at 0.9%, with $0 security deposit, $1,000/$500 discounts (lease credit), $750/$2,300 down payment and first monthly payment due at lease inception. Total lease obligation $9,586/$13,778 with the option to purchase at the end of the term for $10,755/$13,483. Lease has 16,000 km/yr allowance (other packages available and $0.12/km for excess kilometres). [Ω]Lease payments must be made on a monthly or bi-weekly basis but cannot be made on a weekly basis. Weekly lease payments are for advertising purposes only. 'Model shown Manufacturer Suggested Retail Price for 2015 Forte SX (F0748F)/2015 Soul SX Luxury (S0758F)/2015 Optima SX Turbo AT (OP748F)/2016 Sorento SX Turbo AWD (SR75JG) is $26,695/$27,295/$34,895/$42,095. The Kia Soul received the lowest number of problems per 100 vehicles among compact multi-purpose vehicles in the proprietary J.D. Power 2015 U.S. Initial Quality Study[SM]. Study based on responses from 84,367 U.S. new-vehicle owners, measuring 244 models and measures opinions after 90 days of ownership. Proprietary study results are based on experiences and perceptions of U.S. owners surveyed from February to May 2015. Your experiences may vary. Visit jdpower.com. The Kia Sorento received the lowest number of problems per 100 vehicles among midsize SUVs in the proprietary J.D. Power 2015 U.S. Initial Quality Study[SM]. Study based on responses from 84,367 U.S. new-vehicle owners, measuring 244 models and measures opinions after 90 days of ownership. Proprietary study results are based on experiences and perceptions of U.S. owners surveyed from February to May 2015. Your experiences may vary. Visit jdpower.com. The 2015 Rio/2015 Forte/2015 Rondo were awarded with the Clef d'or "Best in Class" by L'Annuel de l'automobile 2015. Visit www.annuelauto.com for all the details. The 2016 Sorento/2015 Optima/2015 Sedona/2015 Soul were awarded the 2015 Top Safety Pick by the Insurance Institute for Highway Safety (IIHS) for model year 2016/2015/2015/2015. U.S. models tested. Visit www.iihs.org for full details. Government 5-Star Safety Ratings are part of the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration's (NHTSA's) New Car Assessment Program (www.SaferCar.gov). 2015 Kia Soul awarded ALG Residual Value Award for highest resale value in its class. Based on ALG's residual value forecast for the 2015 model year. ALG is the industry benchmark for residual values and depreciation data, www.alg.com. 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